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Chickasaw Times

One Tribe One Mission

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Upcoming Events

Celebration Lights
Nov. 28-Dec. 31
Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130

Christmas Journey
Dec. 11 & Dec. 12, Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
McSwain Theatre, Ada, Okla.
(580) 272-5520

Silk Painting Class
Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur
(580) 622-8040

Christmas at the Museums and Progressive Dinner
Dec. 12, 4-7 p.m.
Chickasaw Council House Museum, Chickasaw National Capitol, and Chickasaw White House, Tishomingo & Emet, Okla.
(580) 371-9835

Christmas Celebration & Fine Arts Market
Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Chickasaw Cultural Center Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Holiday Canvas Paint
Dec. 12 & Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building Ada
ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur
(580) 272-5520

Gourdget Class
Dec. 15, 2-4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur
(580) 622-8040

Winter Solstice
Dec. 20-21, Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday Noon- 5 p.m.
Chickasaw Cultural Center Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Beaded Collar Class
Jan. 9, 10 a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m.
Chickasaw National Capitol Tishomingo
(580) 371-9835

Loom Beading Class
Jan.16, 10 a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m.
Chickasaw National Capitol Tishomingo
(580) 371-9835

NAJA
Native American Journalists Association

Chickasaw Times Online

Season's Greetings

Season's greetings and warmest holiday wishes from all of us at the Chickasaw Nation!

During this sacred season we reflect on all the blessings bestowed by God. We are especially thankful for our families, our friends and our tribe.

Christmas tree located at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Okla.

Over the generations, faith has guided the Chickasaw people. All Chickasaws share a very special bond that has been forged in the fires of tremendous challenge. Throughout our journey, we have been blessed by the Almighty, and by the innumerable sacrifices of Chickasaw generations that came before us. With God's grace, our people have survived and flourished.

Our modern world can present challenges to our traditions of family unity and harmony. This Christmas season, we extend prayers of goodwill for all our Chickasaw families.

We pray for all our military men and women, wherever they serve, and for our Chickasaw veterans who have served our country so honorably.

GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

We honor and revere our Chickasaw elders, the rocks of our tribe. It is our elders who keep our fires of tradition burning bright. For them, we wish all the good things that make this season special.

We pray a special blessing for the lives of our Chickasaw children. It is the little children who offer simple faith, and who will grow to become leaders of our tribe.

There are many among us who have faced sorrow and loss in their lives. This season's message of love, peace and charity should lead us to offer understanding and compassion to those who are grieving.

We are commanded to love our God, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Our prayer is that we answer the call when the opportunity comes to help our fellow man.

For each of us, as Chickasaws, we give great thanks for the many blessings bestowed on our tribe. The season of peace and fullness of spirit has arrived! God bless you, your family and our beloved Chickasaw Nation!

Gov. Bill Anoatubby

Front door of the Chickasaw White House, in Emet, Okla., decorated for Christmas.

Chickasaw vets lay wreath at Tomb of Unknowns

Three Chickasaw veterans lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns as they honor America's warriors during a commemoratiion of Veterans Day.. The veterans are, from left, Johnny Swinney, Ranger, Texas; Jerry Tyson, San Antonio, Texas; and Joe Orr, Frederick, Oklahoma. Mr. Tyson served 32 years in the U.S. Navy; Mr. Orr served in the U.S. Army for six years, and Mr. Swinney served six years in the U.S. Air Force.

WASHINGTON - Hundreds of visitors stood in still silence at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on a cool, overcast day as three Chickasaw veterans stepped out to lay a wreath at the tomb. Marked by the words "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God," the tomb is a sacred place to honor all those who have died in service to the United States.

Jerry Tyson, of San Antonio; Joe Orr, of Frederick, Okla.; and Johnny Swinney, of Ranger, Texas agreed it was "a great honor" to be chosen to pay their respects to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for their country.

"I know of nothing that would be any more significant in my life than to participate in the laying of the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns," Mr. Orr said.

Tyson, Orr and Swinney have a combined 44 years of service in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, respectively. The three are among 18 Chickasaw Veterans visiting Washington D.C., as part of a Veterans Day trip sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation.

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby said the trip is one way to honor veterans for their service.

"It is important we remember these men and women who have given of their time and talents to defend our freedom and our way of life," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Veterans Day offers a time to reflect on the sacrifice and commitment of those who have served our nation, but we should always remember there are men and women working every day around the world to secure the way of life we enjoy."

Chickasaw veterans arrived in Washington Sunday and will return home Thursday, Nov. 12.

While in the nation's capital, they plan to commemorate Veterans Day by taking part in services at the World War II Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial as well as visiting the Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Memorial.

Other plans include a visit to the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Archives and the U.S. Capitol.

Earlier this year, the Chickasaw Nation announced plans to construct a Veterans Lodge to serve as a gathering place for the newly established Chickasaw Warrior Society.

The lodge, which will be located on the grounds of the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Oklahoma, will provide a place for veterans and active duty military to gather and fellowship as well as a place for veterans to access services.

Native Americans represent the largest percentage per capita of any ethnicity who fought in military campaigns for America throughout history, according to James Floyd of the Veterans Affairs. The Chickasaw Nation has more than 60,000 citizens and more than 1,600 active duty military members.

Chickasaw veterans on this year's tour include:

John E. Taylor, Oklahoma City, U.S. Navy; Orin Johnston, Jr., Oklahoma City, U.S. Army; Martin H. Anderson, Hartshorne, Okla., U.S. Navy; William Morris, Cartwright, Okla., U.S. Navy; Joe R. Orr, Frederick, Okla., U.S. Army; John J. Bomboy, Duncan, Okla., U.S. Army; Carl L. Green, Maysville, Okla., U.S. Army; James Jerome Thomas, Gordonville, Texas, U.S. Army; Jerry Tyson, San Antonio, U.S. Navy; Talbert Johnson, Lithia, Georgia, U.S. Army; John Swinney, Ranger, Texas, U.S. Air Force; Thomas Randolph III, Kingwood, Texas, U.S. Army; Charles Kemp, Joplin, Missouri, U.S. Air Force; Ray Horn, Magnolia, Texas, U.S. Air Force; Harvey Greenwood, Gallup, N.M., U.S. Air Force; and Clifford Snyder, Sherman Oaks, Calif., U.S. Army.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Bedré offering great gift ideas for holiday season

DAVIS, Okla. – How awesome would it be to have Bedré chocolate delivered right to your door? Perfect, of course!

Bedré Fine Chocolate has recently introduced a subscription-based program. Bedré Box is a bi-monthly subscription that will deliver an assortment of Bedre products to doorsteps across the nation.

"Bedré Fine Chocolate is one of the Chickasaw Nation's flagship endeavors," Chickasaw Nation Secretary of Commerce Bill Lance said. "Bedré Box provides an opportunity to expand Bedré's

market share by offering consumers additional, convenient ways to purchase our products."

Bedré Fine Chocolate general manager Kay Colbert said Bedré Box was tribe's entry into the growing market for subscription boxes. The boxes will contain products that may be available for a limited time or give subscribers the opportunity to test new products.

"Bedré is well-known for its variety of gourmet chocolates, and Bedré Box is an ideal method for introducing new or limited edition items and maintaining demand for our existing products," Ms. Colbert said. "This is an excellent opportunity to grow our business and extend our reach as a company."

Bedré will take orders for the initial Bedré Box installment through Dec. 7 and will ship beginning Dec. 14. The first box will include a milk chocolate peanut butter bar, a dark chocolate raspberry bar, a milk chocolate caramel bar, a can of Twists and two handmade items – milk and dark chocolate salted caramel discs. Bedré Box is $39.95 per box. That price includes shipping costs, and boxes are delivered six times a year in February, April, June, August, October and December.

The company produces high quality chocolate products from its facility in Davis. Products include bars, crisps, clusters, twists, meltaways and more.

SEE **BEDRÉ,** PAGE 3

Former Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court Justice Barbara Smith passes away

Barbara Smith

Former Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court Justice Barbara Anne Smith died November 10, 2015 in Boulder, Colorado.

Justice Smith was a Chickasaw citizen and served as a Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court Justice from 2003 through 2015. Prior to her service on the Supreme Court, she served as a tribal District Judge.

She was a facilitator in reestablishing a Peacemaking Court within the Chickasaw Nation Judicial Branch. Justice Smith also worked as a Special Judge for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Courts. She, along with her brother Michael Colbert Smith, operated a law practice in Norman, Okla.

Justice Smith was a descendant of Chickasaw Nation Governor Winchester Colbert. She grew up in a Chickasaw family that always carried pride for Governor Colbert's contributions to the Chickasaw Nation. Her father was born in 1920 and raised in Newcastle, Okla., on his family's allotment land. He lived on the farm with his parents, Mabel Mae Smith and Virgil V. Smith

SEE **SMITH,** PAGE 3

Diabetes Center honor

Governor Bill Anoatubby accepts the 2015 Harold Hamm Diabetes Center Board Member of the Year award. Presenting the award is Harold Hamm, chief executive officer and chairman of Continental Resources Inc., and Regina Mullennix, chair of the board of advisors of the Diabetes Center. The Center seeks a cure for diabetes, one of the most debilitating diseases in the nation and one that disproportionately strikes Native Americans. It is the fourth leading cause of death among Oklahomans. Gov. Anoatubby is serving on the board along with other Oklahoma leaders.

Environmental stewardship

Chickasaw project supports monarch butterfly resurgence

SULPHUR, Okla. – The Chickasaw Nation is giving the monarch butterfly a helping hand. Like bees and fireflies, the monarch needs all the TLC it can get.

The monarch's population is plummeting. People are altering the butterfly's habitat, building new structures, and eliminating life-giving milkweed plants from pastureland. A decade ago, 20 billion Monarch butterflies existed. That number is now two billion.

Rhonda Sellers steps lightly in a well-mulched 45'x65' garden plot at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur. The Chickasaw Nation ecosystem expert – her official title is Ecological Resource Coordinator – speaks about the genus of plants that will help the monarch population rebound.

The plants are many and have various scientific names. At the Cultural Center plot, there are plenty of milkweed and nectar-rich plants to sustain a few thousand monarchs and their offspring.

"Butterfly milkweed is located at three separate locations on campus," Ms. Sellers said as she stooped to show the seed pod of the plant.

She knows it well. She has harvested 55,000 seeds. The Chickasaw Nation intends to keep 5,000 for reseeding this spring. The other 50,000 are going to Cedar Valley Nurseries, a large greenhouse operation east of Ada. Cedar Valley is partnering with the tribe to get those 50,000 plants into the hands of citizens who can lend the struggling monarch a hand.

Only plants in the milkweed family can sustain the butterfly. It is where a single female may lay up to 1,000 eggs. The eggs become larvae, then caterpillars, and then the orange and black beauty that graces the sky and glides effortlessly on the wind, the Nation's Greenhouse Supervisor David Correll explains.

With more than 100 flower beds at the Cultural Center, Ms. Sellers estimates more than half contain "butterfly friendly" plants. That number will grow by next spring and stretch as far south as Thackerville.

Chickasaw Nation horticultural experts Rhonda Sellers and David Correll show just two of the plants used by monarch butterflies to thrive. A plot of plants at the Chickasaw Cultural Center is helping the creatures and other species thrive locally. Mrs. Sellers is holding a nectar-rich verbena plant and Mr. Correll is holding a seed pod from a milkweed plant.

Caterpillars that will transform themselves into monarch butterflies have lunch on a plant at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

"The good thing is we are not just helping monarchs, we're helping all pollinators, especially the honey bee," Chickasaw Nation Greenhouse Supervisor David Correll said. "The honey bee loves all of these plants as much as the monarch."

The tribe plans to expand the plot of ground beyond its present borders, stretching it along a shaded tree line about 15 additional yards. Additionally, a bed of monarch-friendly plants is planned along the hillside adjacent to the trail leading into the Cultural Center's Traditional Village.

"I am going to attempt to incorporate some plum growth in that area as well," Ms. Sellers said.

So dedicated are Chickasaws to seeing the project succeed, workers are harvesting native plants and bringing them to the Cultural Center.

Ms. Sellers shows off a three-foot tall Bushy Bluestem plant she harvested "by the side of the road near my house. It is difficult to find some of these plants in greenhouses," she said.

Native grasses are high on Ms. Sellers' list of needed items. She isn't shy about walking through fields to harvest the plants she can't find at local nurseries.

Likewise for Mr. Correll.

"This place is an unqualified success story just six months out," he said. "There are plants here, and in the Honor Garden. I counted about 50 monarch butterfly caterpillars in the small plot and in the Honor Garden. By next year, I will be excited to discover just how much of a difference we are making."

Working in tandem with Monarch Watch, a University of Kansas project, the tribe is dedicated to providing the resources to see the creature flourish.

Other tribes are partnering in the project as well.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

BEDRÉ | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bedré chocolates have a distinctive, smooth and satisfying flavor guaranteed to please everyone in the family.

To place an order, call Bedré Fine Chocolate's customer service line from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at (800) 367-5390. More information about Bedré Box can be found at bedrechocolates.com.

About Bedré Fine Chocolate

Owned and operated by the Chickasaw Nation, Bedré Fine Chocolate has set the standard for quality gourmet chocolates. The production facility in Davis, Okla., utilizes state-of-the-art machinery to ensure the ingredient mix is controlled, guaranteeing a superior and more consistent product. Bedré is a Norwegian word and simply means "better." The name conveys the vision of the company. Bedré is made from only the finest ingredients. The recipes are tried and true, offering a soothing and satisfying experience to the most distinguished palate.

SMITH | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and his grandparents, Martha C. Colbert Smith and Charles Sydney Smith. Her father's grandmother was the daughter of Humphrey Colbert and Elmina Colbert and the granddaughter of Winchester Colbert and Silsey Colbert.

Justice Smith grew up in Midwest City, Okla. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from East Central (OK) University in 1971, and a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Oklahoma in 1987.

She began her professional career as a mathematics teacher at Norman High School in the 1970s.

In 1987, she enrolled in Oklahoma City University School of Law and earned her juris doctorate in 1991. She and her brother Mother established their law practice in Norman that same year.

She served on the board of directors of the Native American Rights Fund, and the National American Indian Court Judges Association. She was also on the National Judicial College Tribal Advisory Council, and on the advisory board for the Women and Gender Studies program at the University of Oklahoma.

Justice Smith was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by a brother, Michael Smith, and sister-in-law Kathryn; three nephews, Benjamin Colbert, Matthew Winchester and Samuel Harrison; and a niece, Kathryn Mariah.

The family would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers during this sad time.

Please join us in remembering the Barbara and the Smith family in your thoughts and prayers.

Chickasaw Council House
Museum Gift Shop
invites you to come and shop our newly remodeled store, offering a variety of items, such as:
Chickasaw Seal & Remembrance Afghans, Books, Southeastern & Beaded Jewelry, Beads, Baskets, Bedré Chocolate, Postcards, Note Cards, Artwork, Music CDs, Ceramic Wolves, Pottery, Candles, Handmade Cultural Items, Home Decor Items
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All editorials and letters will become the property of the Chickasaw Times. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.
Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

Tribe cited for success with tobacco cessation program

ADA, Okla. – The Chickasaw Nation has been cited for its outstanding leadership efforts in helping patients stop smoking. An award was presented at a special gathering Nov. 2 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center.

Over an 11-month period, hundreds of patients treated at the medical center and satellite clinics received help to kick the tobacco habit. The participation is made possible by the medical center's use of electronic referral of patients to the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline.

Officials said 690 Chickasaw Nation Department of Health patients had benefited through 140 hospital referrals and 550 referrals from the Chickasaw Nation's clinics.

The award was presented to the Chickasaw Nation by Oklahoma Hospital Association Chief Executive Officer Craig Jones.

The Association cited the tribe for "Outstanding Leadership Achievement." The Chickasaw Nation Department of Health was the first Oklahoma health system to develop Electronic Helpline Referrals and Sustainable Patient Tobacco Treatment. The effort is the result of an alliance among the Chickasaw Nation, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline.

Patients referred by their inpatient or outpatient health provider are contacted by the Helpline for counseling support and over-the-counter medications to improve their chances of success. Once services are rendered, the Helpline sends information back to the provider on services provided to that individual.

The tribe's opportunity to change the lives of our citizens through this program, Gov. Bill Anoatubby said, could not get off the ground without the partnerships that have developed.

Chickasaw Nation officials accept an Outstanding Leadership Achievement award Monday from the Oklahoma Hospital Association. The tribe was the first Oklahoma health system utilizing a state-of-the-art electronic records system to help citizens quit using commercial tobacco. From left, Chickasaw Nation Secretary of Health Dr. Judy Goforth Parker; Under Secretary of Operations Heather Summers; Governor Bill Anoatubby; and Craig Jones, CEO of the Oklahoma Hospital Association.

In becoming the first health system in Oklahoma to utilize the electronic referrals to help citizens, Gov. Anoatubby said he hoped other health care facilities in the state would grasp the opportunity to assist all citizens to end addiction to tobacco.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Childcare conference

Engaging all a child's senses hits foundational building blocks

From left, Child Care Curriculum Specialist Becky Ebanks, Child Care Manager Sandra Manual, keynote speaker Rae Pica, Child Care Director Michelle Key, and Child Care Resource Monitor and Special Project Manager Lacey McFadden.

The building blocks of early childhood development are arranged by utilizing all human senses.

"Our retention and memory jump from 10 percent of what we read to 90 percent of what we hear, see, say and do at the same time," children's activity specialist Rae Pica told the Chickasaw Nation Child Care Conference. "The more senses we use in the learning process, the more we retain."

Ms. Pica delivered her talk to more than 230 child care providers and early childhood educators during the October 24 conference in Ada. Attendees learned many beneficial factors of laying down the building blocks of a child's early development. The providers and educators gathered at the Chickasaw Business and Conference Center on the campus East Central University for Chickasaw Nation's 11th Annual Child Care Conference.

Ms. Pica is nationally known for her workshops and keynote addresses. She has worked with the Sesame Street Research Department, the Head Start Bureau, Centers for Disease Control and Nickelodeon's Blue's Clues. She taught Movement Fundamentals at the University of New Hampshire for 12 years. She is an active member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

"Rae was very energetic and inspiring," Chickasaw Nation Child Care manager Sandra Manuel said. "She presented information in a knowledgeable and entertaining fashion."

Conference breakout sessions included: Child Passenger Safety Awareness; School-Agers: They're Not Just Big Toddlers; Poison Control; Baby Doll Circle Time; The Importance of Early Developmental Monitoring and Screening for Autism; and Taking Care of Ourselves.

The Chickasaw Nation Child Care Conference provides educators with essential career training. It is also open to anyone involved in the development or upbringing of a child, child care providers, parents and grandparents.

For more information about the Chickasaw Nation's annual Child Care Conference call (580) 421-7711.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame accepting nominations

The Chickasaw Nation is currently accepting nominations for the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame. Nominations must be received by the Chickasaw Nation Department of Culture and Humanities by the end of the business day, Friday, Dec. 18, 2015.

Both living and deceased nominees are eligible and will be considered for this prestigious honor. Nominees must have distinguished themselves in their businesses, professions, crafts or vocations, thereby bringing honor to the Chickasaw Nation and impacting the Chickasaw tribe or community on a local or national level.

Inductees must be citizens of the Chickasaw Nation or be eligible to become citizens of the Chickasaw Nation. Nominees are not required to live in Oklahoma.

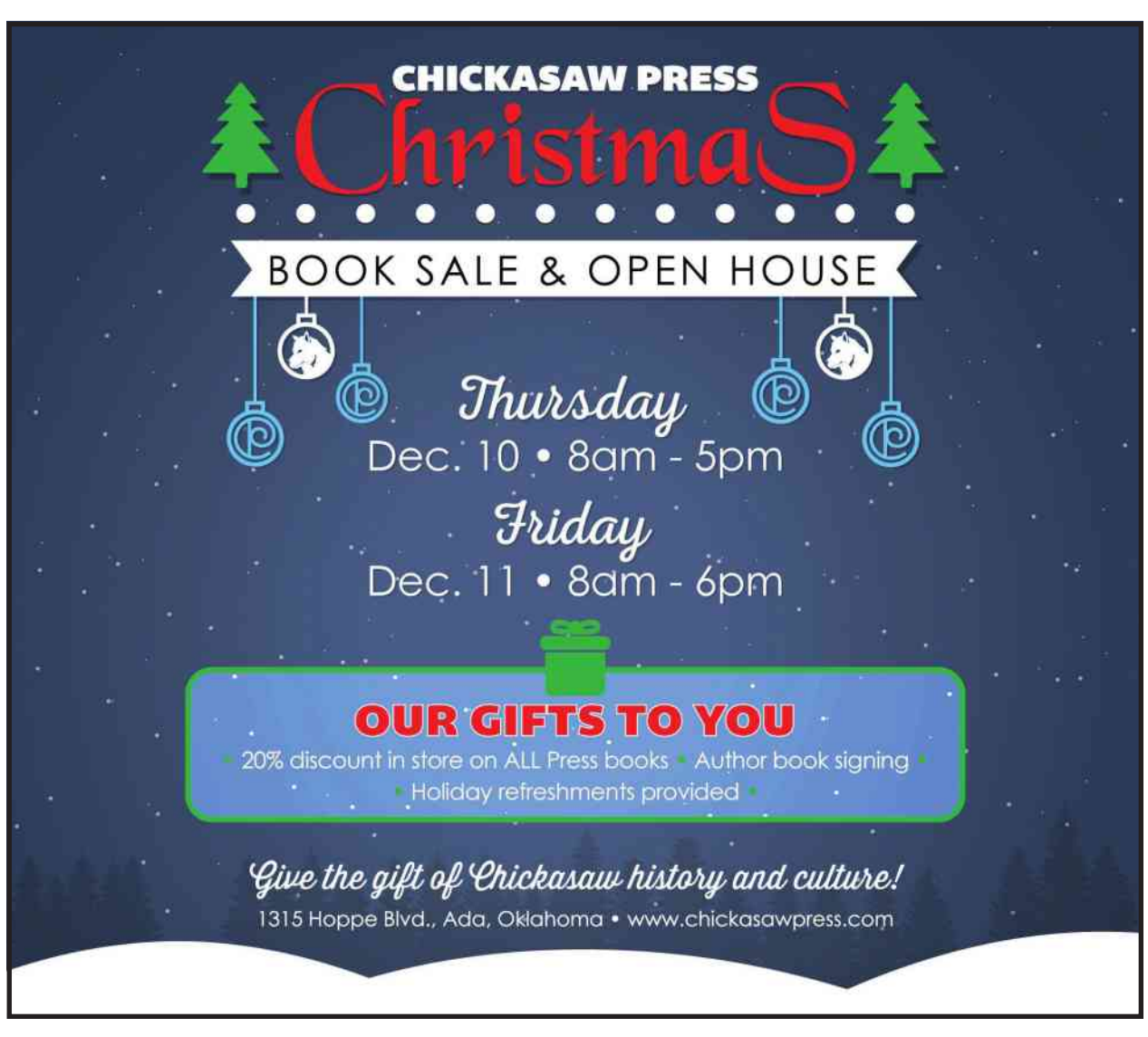
Inductees must commit to being present for the banquet and induction ceremonies in spring 2016.

A nomination form is available on the Chickasaw Nation Website: www.chickasaw.net/hof.

Nominations must be sent to the following address:

Brielle Helm, Department of Culture and Humanities, Post Office Box 1548, Ada, OK, 74871, or email Brielle.Helm@Chickasaw.net.

For more information, contact Brielle Helm at (580) 436-2603.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Chickasaw Country gift card perfect for holiday shopping

OKLAHOMA CITY – How about a simple yet terrific option for gift-giving this holiday season?

The just-introduced Chickasaw Country gift card is now available for purchase and redemption at more than 50 Chickasaw Nation properties and partner retailers throughout south-central Oklahoma.

"The Chickasaw Country gift card enables us to continue building amenities surrounding Native culture and tourism, a vital part of south-central Oklahoma's economy," Chickasaw Nation tourism director Paige Williams said. "Showcasing the many redemption locations across the 13 counties continues to raise awareness about the destinations and expands our reach to visitors from across the United States."

The Chickasaw Country gift card can be purchased in denominations of $25, $50, $100 and $250 at retail locations. The care will also be available online starting at $10. For online access, visit www.chickasawcountry.com/gift-cards.

There are plenty of great locations throughout the Chickasaw Nation where the gift card can be used for purchases. They include WinStar World Casino and Resort and retail properties; Chickasaw Travel Stops; Artesian Hotel, Casino and Spa; Bedré Fine Chocolate; the Chickasaw Cultural Center; the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center; the Chickasaw Visitor Center; Exhibit C; the McSwain Theatre; Newcastle Casino and retail locations; Riverwind Casino and retail locations and more.

The gift card's launch coincides with a website redesign for the regional tourism organization, Chickasaw Country.

"As south-central Oklahoma has become well-known for tourism destinations and cultural experiences, we took the opportunity to revamp the Chickasaw Country website to include added features for travelers with more functionality," Ms. Williams said. "We listened to current website users about the upgrades and features they would like to see, along with studying the patterns of tourism website trends today to create a better experience for the visitor when they are looking for Chickasaw Country information. The website enables users to be more interactive on digital media channels, highlights the cities and regions of the area and also provides more specific options for users, such as tools for groups and meetings and procurement of the Chickasaw Country gift card."

For a complete list of Chickasaw Nation properties and retailers for the Chickasaw Country gift card as well as FAQs and to purchase online, please visit: http://chickasawcountry.com/gift-cards. To experience the new Chickasaw Country website, please visit: www.chickasawcountry.com.

About Chickasaw Country

Chickasaw Country is a regional tourism organization representing 13 south-central Oklahoma counties. A marketing association lead by The Chickasaw Nation to blend tourism efforts in the region, Chickasaw Country represents festivals, events and attractions. A very diverse and cultural destination, Chickasaw Country has new adventures around every corner. In 2013, the U.S. Travel Association honored Chickasaw Country with a Destiny award in both the Best Travel Website and Best Use of Social Media Platform categories. The awards were given during the annual Educational Seminar for Tourism Organizations conference.

Dec. 31 is application deadline for $200 youth clothing grant

The deadline to apply for the Chickasaw Nation youth clothing grant is Dec. 31.

Chickasaw citizens ages three to 18 (through high school seniors) are eligible to apply for the $200 clothing grant once per school year.

Funds are distributed in the form of a non-reloadable Visa gift card. The grant is to be used for clothing purchases only.

All original receipts must be returned to Chickasaw Nation Youth Services by mail or in-person prior to the next application period.

Additional program details can be found at www.chickasaw.net/ysclothinggrant.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact Youth Services at (580) 272-5585 or email clothinggrantprogram@chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Anonymous
DRUG & CRIME TIP LINE
866-928-7384
www.chickasaw.net/LPD
Lighthorse Police Online Tip Form

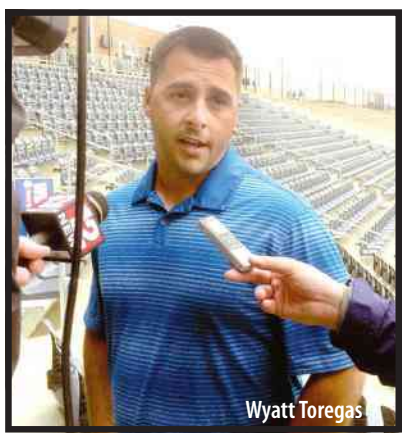
Chickasaw manager leads MLB Pirates' Class A affiliate

FAIRFAX, Va. – Chronic injuries ended the professional baseball career of Chickasaw citizen Wyatt Toregas in 2011. Mr. Toregas (pronounced Tor-ree-gus) maintains it probably was a blessing in disguise.

With his playing days behind him, the Pittsburgh Pirates approached him about managing and coaching the Pirates' Short Season 'A' affiliate The West Virginia Black Bears. Mr. Toregas had hoped he would get the opportunity to manage.

"I thought I was a really good player, but I think I'm doing what I was meant to do as a manager. I believe I may be better at this than I was at playing," Mr. Toregas explained. The Black Bears won the 2015 league championship. The team was at its peak in the key areas of batting and pitching, according to Mr. Toregas.

"There is a great satisfaction I get when (a skill) we've been working on with a specific player … shows up in a game," the 32-year-old explained. "I just think I have a much better feel for this (managing)," he added. "Don't get me wrong, I loved having personal success on the field, but there is something very emotionally satisfying when someone else you've been working so hard with succeeds. I kind of like it more. There is nothing that compares to it," Mr. Toregas said about his duties as manager.


Wyatt Toregas

THE CROWD WENT WILD

Youngsters envision professional greatness when they enter Little League. It's a rite of passage standing in the sandlot dreaming of thousands of cheering fans when you knock in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning in Game 7 of a phantom World Series game.

Mr. Toregas knows. He did it, too, admittedly, but he took it steps ahead of most youngsters. He exceled in Little League and junior high and at South Lakes High School in Reston, Virginia. In high school, he wrestled, played on the golf team and distinguished himself on the baseball diamond.

The Virginia Tech Hokies saw the talent and Mr. Toregas played his college career there on scholarship. The pros came courting in 2004 just as he was finishing his junior year at Tech. He was drafted by the Cleveland Indians.

"Most people don't understand all players start their careers in the minor leagues before they are called up," Mr. Toregas said. "You can count on one hand the number of players who didn't go to the minor league to begin with."

IN THE 'BIGS' BUT INJURED

From 2004-09, Toregas played catcher for the Mahoning Valley Scrappers, Lake County Captains, Kinston Indians, Akron Aeros and Columbus Clippers; teams running the gamut from 'A' to 'AAA' . He was called up to the "Bigs" and got his first hit in Major League Baseball in August 2009.

That's when the injuries started.

"I had three injuries that did me in," Mr. Toregas recalls with pained inflection in his voice. "The first was an elbow injury in a collision with another player. The second was more serious – a dislocated shoulder after a slide into second base. That one really slowed me down, but I fought through it," Mr. Toregas said.

The injury "that tied the bow," as Mr. Toregas bluntly describes the end of his playing career, happened while running to first base after a hit. Mr. Toregas pulled a groin muscle – the one that runs all the way to the knee.

"My body never healed to the point where I could run, or have any confidence in running. Every time I ran, I could feel it trying to pop again."

He was willing to tough it out, but professional scouts saw right through it. "They (scouts) are really good. They can tell when you're hurt. I tried to trick them as long as I could," Mr. Toregas laughs. "The smallest injury can be so devastating because at the professional level you're playing against elite opponents. When an injury slows you down, it shows."

By this time, his contract had been purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates. Mr. Toregas stated he was interested in managing. He already was a player/coach for the team. The team offered him the management job for the Bears and the team is enjoying great success under its Chickasaw manager.

The Bears won their division, won the playoffs and won the 2015 league championship by defeating the Staten Island Yankees.

CHICKASAW HERITAGE

Mr. Toregas is the grandson of Jalna Wenonah "Maw" Wolf Toregas, who was a professional ballroom dancer and actress. She lived to be 103. Born in Norman in 1911, she died last March. Her final resting place is in Virginia.

"She was very proud to be Chickasaw," Mr. Toregas said. "She would tell us stories and remind us we are Chickasaw."

Before his grandmother's death, Mr. Toregas was moved by his Chickasaw blood to request citizenship with the tribe. "I've been a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation for about two or three years now," he said.

And, Mr. Toregas brings with him the Chickasaw Warrior spirit, particularly in baseball.

"We do what is necessary to win baseball games. We (Bears) played the hottest baseball in the league. We were in a great spot to win the championship," he added.

DISCOVER THE CHICKASAW LANGUAGE

CHIKASHSHANOMPA'

a aa a b ch f h i ii i k l lh
m n ng o oo o p s sh t w y

THE CHICKASAW ALPHABET

The Chickasaw language, ***Chikashshanompa'***, was the primary dialect of Chickasaw people for hundreds of years. But today, fewer and fewer citizens know how to speak their native language, and the vast majority of fluent speakers are elders in the Nation.

That's why it's important to learn the language – speak it, write it, study it and share it to ensure it stays alive.

In the game at the right, see if you can match the Chickasaw word with its corresponding picture, then visit ***Chickasaw.tv/ChickasawTimes*** for the answers!

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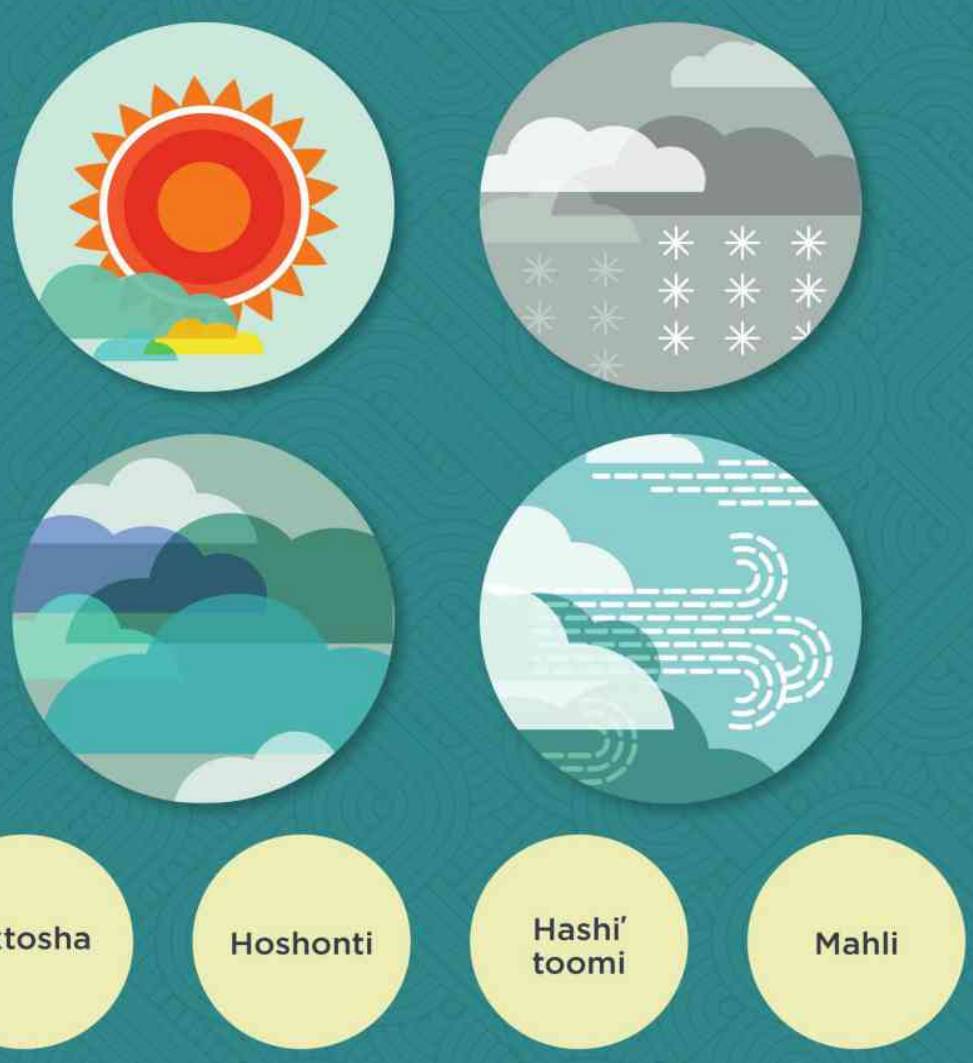
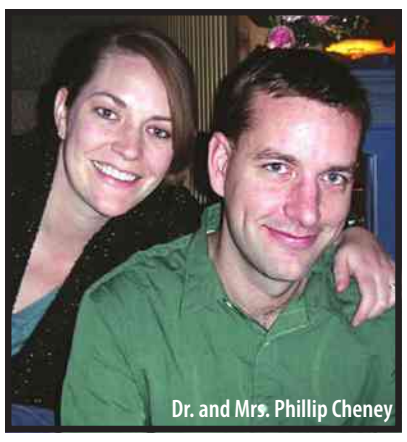


Draw a line from the Chickasaw word to what the weather is like!

Chickasaw scientist leads advances in medical imaging technology


Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Cheney

DENVER – A Chickasaw citizen is on the cutting edge of developing medical imaging technology that could save your life in the near future.

Philip Cheney recently earned his Ph.D. in physical chemistry. He is working at a laboratory in Boulder, Colorado, developing more sophisticated "medical imaging." The development is on the cusp of Federal Drug Administration approval.

Dr. Cheney is looking at how devices can more readily distinguish early cancer cells from normal cells. This distinction could lead to much earlier advanced treatment. The research, he said, could potentially save countless lives.

"My work is optical medical imaging," Dr. Cheney said. "We're trying to come up with new ways to image people to replace X-rays or nuclear imaging. Those are usually very useful and very powerful but they can be dangerous. You can only get so many X-rays. What I'm trying to do is find less dangerous ways to image people.

"What I'm doing now is attempting to image illnesses and injuries you can't see. An example would be someone who has been in a bad car accident. There is not an easy way to tell what is hurt and what is not without surgery or expensive and dangerous X-rays.

"The thing I'm most excited about is technology where you acquire quality imaging by essentially shining a flashlight on someone. Not only is it fast and doesn't hurt the patient – they are not exposed to radiation – but it is cheap, too, and will not be expensive to maintain. It is technology that would easily be available to Third World doctors and in doctors' offices here. It could go into space. It could be used to diagnose illnesses on the International Space Station."

AN INTEREST IN SCIENCE

Full utilization of science, technology, math and engineering – commonly referred to as STEM and fully supported by the Chickasaw Nation – comes into play daily for Dr. Cheney.

"This research can really help people and that is fantastic," he said.

Dr. Cheney's interest in science first surfaced when he was in secondary school. The 36-year-old is the son of Alan and Deidra Cheney. He moved around quite a bit when he was young because the careers of my parents were in high demand. His father is a psychologist and teacher; his mother has a degree in math and forged a career performing mathematical statistics for insurance companies.

"I've always liked science and physics," Dr. Cheney said. "I will say this is not where I thought I'd end up. After I finished my bachelor's, I performed some research in St. Louis at a hospital doing radiology research and really became very interested in it. I fell in love with it and just kept going with it."

Dr. Cheney specifically chose the University of Denver because of work performed by professor Michelle Noel. Dr. Noel's research spurred Dr. Cheney's interest and she acted as is academic adviser as he pursued a Ph.D.

The long road to such a lofty education took Dr. Cheney many places.

He graduated from Marquette High School in St. Louis and attended the University of Missouri where he earned a degree in chemistry. It was on to St. Louis' Washington University where Dr. Cheney performed research and attended classes earning a post-graduate degree in chemistry. With his interest tweaked by Dr. Noel's work at the University of Denver, he enrolled their earning his doctorate in physical chemistry.

"This is the first time in my life I haven't been in school," Dr. Cheney said.

PROUD TO BE CHICKASAW

Dr. Cheney praised the Chickasaw Nation for supporting his efforts to earn a Ph.D. The tribe provided scholarships and other educational funding.

"The tribe generously helped me out during my Ph.D. studies and I am proud to be Chickasaw," he said.

He has visited the Chickasaw Nation, an experience of great importance to him. He and his wife, Elizabeth, hope to visit again soon.

He traces his tribal heritage through his mother. He is descendant of the famed Colbert lineage of Chickasaw heritage. His grandmother, Tonia Colbert, lives in Dallas and he has researched other Colbert relatives.

"The Colbert history is something I'm very proud of," he said. "They were at the heart of affairs of the Chickasaw Nation very early on."

He also is hoping to visit, teach or observe the tribe's educational initiative involving STEM programs.

"There is nothing I would enjoy more than gathering together a lot of Chickasaw youth and let them get their hands dirty doing science," Dr. Cheney said.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Pontotoc Pursuit benefits Chickasaw Foundation

Participants beginning the rides at the 2015 Pontotoc Pursuit.

Ada Cheer girls encouraging the Pontotoc Pursuit riders.

ADA, Okla. – A total of 87 bicyclists participated in this year's Pontotoc Pursuit, the charitable event that supports the mission of the Chickasaw Foundation. The Pursuit was October 17 at Wintersmith Park in Ada. Participants chose from eight-, 29-, 44- and 70-mile rides.

Each registered participant was eligible to enter a drawing for a specialized Allez bicycle, provided by Apex Bicycles of Ada. The winner of the drawing was Lauri Rowe.

"You can't help but smile when you are on a bicycle," OK Freewheel executive director Trevor Steward said. "It is a great way to unplug from your normal day to day."

OK Freewheel is an Oklahoma bicycle organization that advocates healthy lifestyle, and supports cycling safety and cycling tourism in Oklahoma.

"Pontotoc Pursuit is a great way to bring a face to cycling community in Oklahoma," Mr. Steward said. "When cyclists are riding, they are not only riding for themselves, they are the face of the cycling community. They are spreading the love of cycling."

Pontotoc Pursuit sends an important message of cyclist safety and overall health to the community with help from people, organizations and clubs who share a passion for cycling.

Chickasaw Cycling Club members also participated in Pontotoc Pursuit. Club president Cycling Club, John Ellis said he believed Ada's cycling community was growing.

"We are trying to make Ada a bike friendly community," Mr. Ellis said.

OK Freewheel and the Chickasaw Cycling Club agreed the Pontotoc Pursuit bicycle ride was an excellent way to grow the cycling community.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Children riding tricycles at Pontotoc Pursuit with dad Solomon Navarro.

Chickasaw Commerce Secretary Lance honored by OCU Meinders School

From left, Dean of the OCU Meinders School of Business Steve Agee; Bill Lance, Chickasaw Nation Secretary of Commerce; and Oklahoma City University President Robert Henry.

OKLAHOMA CITY - A Chickasaw business leader was recently recognized for his contributions to Oklahoma commerce.

Chickasaw Nation Commerce Secretary Bill Lance received the Oklahoma City University Meinders School of Business Outstanding Achievement Award during the October 14 ceremony. Mr. Lance was also among five people inducted into the Oklahoma Commerce & Industry Hall of Honor by Oklahoma City University's Meinders School of Business.

The ceremony at the Cox Convention Center marked the 29th anniversary of the event.

The Oklahoma Commerce & Industry Hall of Honor recognizes members of the business community who have made a positive impact on Oklahoma business. Along with Mr. Lance, inductees included Nancy Anthony, William Durrett, Linda Lambert and Ed Martin.

Mr. Lance is responsible for all Chickasaw Nation commercial business enterprises. In addition to his role as chief executive, he serves on the boards of several other Chickasaw Nation-owned entities including Global Gaming Solutions, LLC; Sovereign Native Holdco, LLC and related subsidiaries; and Chickasaw Nation Industries. He is also a University of Arts and Sciences of Oklahoma regent.

Mr. Lance previously served as administrator of the Chickasaw Nation Health System, where he oversaw the historic construction of the 370,000 square-foot Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada.

He received a Master of Public Health degree from the University Of Oklahoma College of Public Health, and a Bachelor of Science degree from East Central (OK) University. He is an American College of Healthcare Executives fellow and a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma class XXIV.

During Mr. Lance's remarks, he gave thanks to his mother as his first mentor. She taught him, he said, to lead by example and provided him with unwavering love and support. His mother consistently reminded him of how proud she was of her family's Chickasaw heritage.

Governor Bill Anoatubby, Mr. Lance said, had made a positive and important impact on his life.

"I've had the honor and privilege of working with Bill Anoatubby since January of 2000," Mr. Lance said. "Governor Anoatubby has been the best leader I have ever witnessed in my career. His passion, drive and love for the Chickasaw people has made us all better leaders. I am forever thankful for the profound impact he has made on my life and the life of many."

Gov. Anoatubby received the Meinders School of Business Chairman's Award in 2010.

In addition to recognizing members of the business community, the Oklahoma Commerce & Industry Hall of Honor luncheon benefits the Meinders School of Business scholarship program. The Meinders School of Business offers a full-tuition scholarship to Indian students to study business at the school. Five qualifying Chickasaw students will enter into this prestigious scholarship program.

Sha Ingram and Michaela Milligan were the 2015 scholarship recipients in attendance at the Hall of Honor. Other 2015 scholarship recipients include Tyler Wade and Sydney Mosshart. James Ogle was the first recipient to receive the Native American Meinders School of Business scholarship in 2013.

"The way the Chickasaw Nation holds the reputation of the Chickasaw heritage of being unconquered, is amazing," Mr. Ogle said. "The Chickasaw Nation provides many ways to grow, not only as a whole organization or tribe, but as an individual. To have the opportunity to further my education means I can able to grow and give back to our tribe."

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

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DEC 11 & 12 • DEC 18 & 19
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Lots of great attractions are open for your enjoyment during the season

NANCY ELLIOTT
Secretary
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chokma, Chinchokma, Hello, how are you?

The holiday season is here! I hope you are able to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Chickasaw Nation to get out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season. Plan to make a visit to the beautiful Artesian Hotel and Spa in Sulphur, Oklahoma, and I guarantee, you won't be disappointed. All kinds of activities are planned to help you get into the festive mood, from breakfast with Santa to old fashioned carriage rides.

Not only is the Artesian one of the most beautiful hotels in Oklahoma and worth a trip just to see it, but it has been made even more beautiful for the holidays. While you're there, be sure to stop in at the Springs Restaurant, which offers delicious and decadent meals that will definitely make your visit more than just a beautiful memory.

Another great place to visit during the holidays is our Chickasaw White House in Emet, Oklahoma. Every year, a Progressive Dinner is held starting in Tishomingo at our Historic Capitol and ending with dessert at the Chickasaw White House. We definitely have to include the Chickasaw Cultural Center on our list of great places to visit at this time of year. There will be a tree lighting, ornament crafts, and the drive through light display, which gets better every year. I look forward to seeing many of you between now and Christmas at council meetings, senior sites, or at upcoming events. However, if I don't see you, I want to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas. We have much to be thankful for as Chickasaws. No matter how bleak and scary the world at large becomes, we know that God is in control. May God bless you and may God continue to bless the Chickasaw Nation. Please let me know if I can help you in any way.

Merry Christmas!
Chipisala'cho anowa, Until I see you again,
Nancy
Pontotoc District Seat 2
Nancy.elliott@Chickasaw.net
580-399-4374

Christmas at Grandma and Grandpa's was not a commercialized event

KATIE CASE

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everybody,

Christmas is coming! Christmas is an exciting time to me, and I know it is because my grandparents made it an exciting time for us.

Preparations for Christmas were taken up with a sense of joy and excitement. We gathered pecans. We sold some for Christmas money to be spent on gifts and food. Some, we kept for our own use.

At the first of December, Grandpa would go to his special, apple-buying store to get a box of big, Red Delicious apples, placing them under the bed to be selectively consumed over the next 25 days.

Grandma would make candy and cookies. She really liked to make Aunt Bill's Candy and divinity.

Sometimes we had to eat the divinity with a spoon, but we loved it just the same. Grandma only made two kinds of cookies, sugar and ginger snaps. We got both at Christmas!

Ginger snaps and a cold glass of milk; mmm, that sounds so good!

Christmas at Grandma and Grandpa's was not commercial. Grandma had nine store-bought ornaments that she kept in a box. We filled the tree with ornaments we made. We cut snowflakes out of paper and we strung popcorn, for days, to make garlands for the tree.

The tree was at least a 4-foot cedar, harvested from the pasture and set firmly in a bucket of sand.

Grandma gave me the same gift every year. She would make me a flannel night gown. It fit high on my neck, long on my arms and the hem reached the floor. She never measured me, and I never saw her cutting it out or sewing it, but the gowns always fit!

Christmas at Grandma and Grandpa's was about the time we spent together and the part each of us played in the preparations. From picking out the pecan goodies for making pecan pies and candy to popping and stringing popcorn to decorate the tree, the things we did together made memories and created opportunities for Grandma and Grandpa to tell us about their memories of Christmas.

Grandpa was on his own by age 10 and didn't have many Christmas stories. Grandma would tell us about being so excited to get just a candy cane for Christmas or her mother making dolls for gifts for the three girls in the family.

I am so grateful for the time and the stories Grandma and Grandpa shared with us. Some of those stories are of times from literally 100 years ago.

Grandma and Grandpa showed us kids that Christmas is about being together, working together and enjoying each other.

So, this Christmas at my house, maybe we won't stress so much about the shopping and the gifts.

Maybe we will focus on and be grateful for the time we have with family and friends.

We will certainly remember the real reason for the season and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Here's wishing you and your family joy and time together this holiday season.

Respectfully,
Katie

Native American Month gives us opportunity to share our culture

CONNIE BARKER
Chairman
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Happy Holidays everyone,

This is the time of year we cherish the most, spending time with family and friends. I hope each of you find this Holiday Season to be the best one yet. As we take time out of our busy schedules to celebrate the season, I ask each of you to share the love of the season with a military member. Our military families are often far from home, and feeling pretty lonely. If we could take a moment and say a prayer, send a Christmas card or even make a charitable donation in the name of a man or woman currently serving our country or a veteran. I am sure anyone far from home would appreciate these acts of kindness and make them feel as though their sacrifices do not go unnoticed.

As we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays I would like to give thanks on a personal note. First I would like to thank God for the many blessing he bestows on me, my family and the Chickasaw Nation. I know that with his love and direction, our great nation will endure and flourish. I give thanks for my wonderful husband and 4 children, and we are blessed with 3 beautiful grandchildren as well. I also give thanks for the wonderful leadership of the Chickasaw people, Governor Anoatubby, for it is his leadership that has brought the Chickasaw Nation where it is today.

November was Native American Month and in Marietta Public Schools were celebrated the culture of the Chickasaw Nation. Over 400 hundred children, grades pre-K to fifth grade were entertained by story teller Stephanie Scott and the Chickasaw Nation mascots. Each year children receive coloring or comic books educating them on the history and culture of Native Americans, they also come away with an appreciation and respect for all people. This is a great way for children to learn and honor the values of Oklahomans and all Americans as well.

At this time I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and ask God's blessing upon you and your family. Thank you for another great year, representing you as your tribal Legislator.

Warmest regards,
Connie Barker, Legislative Chair
Pickens District, Seat 2

Rosetta Stone language partnership, other initiatives keep tribe rolling

TIM COLBERT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chokma!

Greetings from the Tishomingo District!

As we come to the close of another year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The year 2015 brought many exciting developments and progress for the Chickasaw Nation and our citizens.

From the opening of new facilities which help provide programs and services to our citizens; expansion and enhancement of the programs and services and the growth of many of our business ventures, this year has been full of progressive developments in the Chickasaw Nation.

Many of our citizens were excited to learn of a recent development aimed to save and share our Chickasaw language, a partnership with Rosetta Stone. Language lessons will be developed during the next year with help from our Chickasaw language experts. The first 40 lessons are expected to be ready in the fall of 2016. This groundbreaking partnership will be a great tool to teach our language to Chickasaws worldwide, which is a huge step in preserving our heritage for future generations.

It is innovative programs such as the Rosetta Stone partnership, developments in commerce and tourism and our continuing efforts to share our heritage and culture at facilities such as the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, which will help us remain "Unconquered and Unconquerable."

Again, I hope you and your family have a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you are in Chickasaw Country during the holiday season, enjoy the many unique holiday celebrations we offer in our communities – from Christmas light displays to holiday plays and interactive Christmas celebrations for our citizens- there are many ways to celebrate the season with your family in the Chickasaw Nation.

For a full list of holiday events, visit www.chickasaw.net or see *the Chickasaw Times*.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Chokma'shki,
Tim Colbert
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
580-421-7242

Tribal businesses off to good start for FY2016

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Division of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of tribal government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, the Chickasaw Times and governor's and lt. governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending October 31, 2015

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled $16.18 million for the month. Expenditures were $8.5 million for the month.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes for the month of October totaled $111.05 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was $127,237,502 for October. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At October 31, 2015, the tribal government funds had $348.06 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $22.44 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $270.29 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of October 31, 2015, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of $2.15 billion.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Month Ended October 31, 2015

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	$	927,306	111,049,074	111,976,380
Transfers from businesses to tribal government		16,188,428	(16,188,428)	-
Total funds available		17,115,734	94,860,646	111,976,380
Expenditures				
General government		685,410	-	685,410
Legislature		256,542	-	256,542
Judiciary		85,276	-	85,276
Education		1,346,969	-	1,346,969
Heritage Preservation		1,554,202	-	1,554,202
Health		350,702	-	350,702
Youth Services		314,700	-	314,700
Family Services		1,115,028	-	1,115,028
Nutrition Programs		448,646	-	448,646
Regulatory		810,640	-	810,640
Assistance Programs		1,573,723	-	1,573,723
Gaming expense		-	64,690,981	64,690,981
Other businesses' expense		-	23,076,243	23,076,243
Total expenditures		8,541,839	87,767,224	96,309,063
Increase in net assets		8,573,895	7,093,421	15,667,316
Beginning net assets		818,638,319	1,322,439,260	2,141,077,579
Ending net assets	$	827,212,214	1,329,532,681	2,156,744,894

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
October 31, 2015

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	$	348,063,738	270,295,139	618,358,878
Receivables		16,897,784	110,545,536	127,443,320
Inventory		152,702	7,230,542	7,383,244
Prepaid expenses		-	18,051,050	18,051,050
Other Assets		-	1,078,139	1,078,139
Fixed assets		464,615,232	1,071,606,795	1,536,222,026
Less payables		(2,517,242)	(149,274,519)	(151,791,761)
Net Assets	$	827,212,214	1,329,532,681	2,156,744,894

Chickasaws serve in many capacities on various boards, commissions

MARY JO GREEN

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chukma and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District. I am writing this in the month of November. Perhaps my favorite month because it holds Thanksgiving. And it comes between the Chickasaw Festival and Christmas.

As far as the Legislature goes in November, it's business as usual and this month we considered two reappointments from Governor for the Election Commission. While the reappointments are rather routine, it got me thinking about the wonderful people we have working for the Chickasaw Nation, some of whom, like the Election Commissioners, who serve without pay. They volunteer their time and energy not for a paycheck but motivated by a sense of duty, a sense of giving back to the community just because they can and they recognize a need. And there are more of them than you usually hear about.

Many Chickasaws serve on boards and commissions that are either required by the numerous federal programs the Nation operates or businesses that the Nation owns and operates or that are necessary to keep our Chickasaw community together and healthy. Elders' councils and community councils, youth councils and arts councils. Language boards and cultural leaders. Cooks and drivers, musicians and artists, dancers, hospital volunteers. There are so many, I know that I'm not mentioning all of them and I apologize for that.

Some of the positions, like the Election Commission, are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. These persons are known as the appointed officials of the Nation and are sometimes referred to as the fourth branch of government. These positions are for a set term, usually three or four years. The rest of the positions are filled by Governor or someone authorized by him. Some are employees that wear a second hat upon occasion.

I think that I will say a separate prayer of thanks this Thanksgiving Day for all of those Chickasaws - the volunteers without which we would be a smaller, less organized, less independent and healthy Nation. Please join me.

Chi ihullo li! I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me by telephone, email or letter. My email address is mary.green@chickasaw.net and my address and telephone number are listed elsewhere in this and every issue of *the Chickasaw Times* and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Thank you. Chipisala'cho!

Veterans Day celebration a big event at Panola Senior Center

BETH ALEXANDER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Can you believe that Christmas is right around the corner? Thanksgiving zipped by in a blur! Actually the entire month of November came and went extremely fast but I did manage to observe Veteran's Day and reflex on the fact November is known as Native American Awareness month!

The Panola Senior Center hosted a Veteran's Day Celebration. It was a time for sharing and remembering our men and women in the military. Many brought pictures of their family members that had served or were currently serving. Each veteran participated in a flag pinning ceremony, and shared personal reflections on their time in service. Appreciation to the Panola Center Staff and Director for providing a festive atmosphere with patriotic decorations on each table and a finger food buffet.

Bill Duckworth, Jim Corley, Clifford Whinery, Joe Hartwell, DeLoyd Hicks, Clyde Glenn, Dennis Czapiewski, James Plunkett, all veterans at the Panola Center.

Another historical Event that I was fortunate enough to attend was the dedication of Freedom Fellowship Church located in Fillmore, Oklahoma. The entire Church building is new and fresh just in time for winter. No more space heaters, blankets and cold hands and feet! The Dedication Ceremony was hosted by senior Elder Jerry Imothichey and his wife Janis. Prayers and encouraging messages were given by Pastor Clint Freeman, Governor Anoatubby, Stan Smith and Don Timms. Inspirational songs were provided by Larry and Joann Hawkins. The service was followed by a wonderful covered dish dinner in the new fellowship Hall. Thank you to all of the faithful volunteers who donated food and time to make this a successful and special event!

Senior Elders Jerry and Janis Imotichey of Freedom Fellowship Church located in Fillmore, Okla.

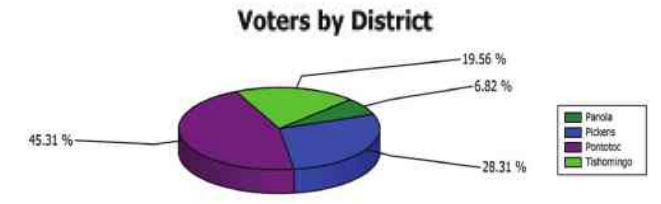
As you and your family experience this holiday Season, remember to share the true meaning, peace and joy of the month with others. The Gift of giving is not just a one month event but an event that occurs for a lifetime.

..."It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Beth Alexander
(580) 283-3409

Count of Voters by District

District	Count
Panola	2,148
Pickens	8,918
Pontotoc	14,272
Tishomingo	6,162
Total	31,500



Together, we can prevent diabetes!
Eagle Adventure
Mr. Eagle's Nest
Cool Crisp Air, Warm Healthy Soups!
Chokma!
Mr. Eagle's Nest is a place to share tips for keeping your body strong and healthy.
When I am at home in my nest warming up, I think of healthy soups my friends can enjoy. Winter is a great time to enjoy soups and chili filled with vegetables.
My friend, Rain, enjoys vegetable soup at lunch and dinner. He also keeps his body moving to stay warm.
At home, Rain teaches his friends and family the Eagle song and dance to keep their bodies healthy, strong, and warm too!
Do you know the Chickasaw word for soup? You say ashiila.
I hope you enjoy my joke today. It's one of Miss Rabbit's favorites.
How do you make soup rich?
Add 24 carrots!
Send me a picture of you and your friends or family doing the Eagle song and dance so I can share it with my friends!
Visit www.eagleadventure.com or call (580) 272-5596 to leave a message and share your family's favorite activities with Mr. Eagle and his friends!

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2014-2015 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Toby Perkins
   15810 CR 1569
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-2606
Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net

2. Nancy Elliott
   620 Ann
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-4374
Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net

3. Katie Case
   14368 County Road 3597
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 272-8385
Katie.Case@chickasaw.net

4. Dean McManus
   5980 CR 3430
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 235-2651
Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net

5. Mary Jo Green
   2000 E. 14th Place
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 310-4563
Mary.Green@chickasaw.net

Pickens District
Seat #

1. David Woerz
   P.O. Box 669
   Ardmore, OK 73402
   (580) 235-3240
David.Woerz@chickasaw.net

2. Connie Barker
   509 SW 7th Ave.
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 272-4175
Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net

3. Linda Briggs
   P.O. Box 241
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 272-7268
Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net

4. Shana Tate Hammond
   801 North Mississippi
   Ada, Oklahoma, 74820
   (580) 235-1438
Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. Scott Wood
   204 East Main Street
   Tishomingo, OK 73460
   (580) 221-1430
Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net

2. Tim Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 421-7242
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net

3. Steven Woods
   5071 Gray's Road
   Davis, OK 73030
   (580) 272-7270
Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
   PO Box 246
   Achille, OK 74720
   (580) 272-7850
beth.alexander@chickasaw.net
bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Birthdays

Christine Lacy

Happy 88th Birthday, Christine Lacy!

She turned the young age of 88 on October 15, 2015. She celebrated with her sister and family.

Kadin Cole Clark

Happy Ninth Birthday to Kadin Cole Clark. He turned nine on September 16, 2015.

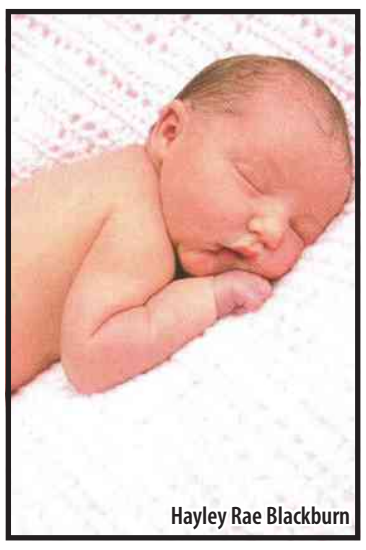
Happy Birthday from Grandma Carol and Papa Jim Reed.

Kassidy Brown

Happy Fifth Birthday to Kassidy Brown. She turned five on September 30, 2015.

Happy Birthday from Grandma Carol and Papa Jim Reed.

Births


Hayley Rae Blackburn

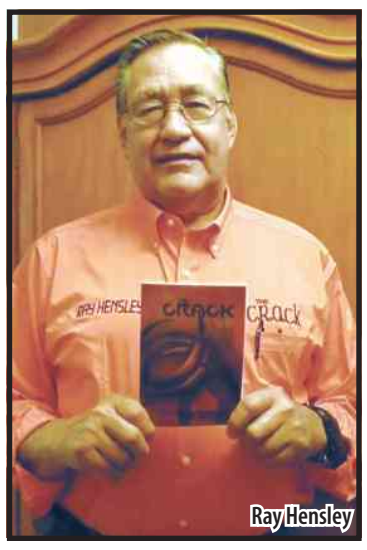
Hayley Rae Blackburn was welcomed into the world on September 29, 2015. The little beauty weighed 7 lbs., 11 ounces, and measured 19 inches at birth.

She is the first daughter born to John and Sian Blackburn, of Orlando, Fla. Welcoming her were her two older brothers, Cody and Jaxon.

Hayley is the granddaughter of Darlene Meyer and John (Gil) Blackburn, of Orlando. Her great-grandparents are the late Patricia and Delbert Meyer, of Texas.

She is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Priscilla Cravens Kegans, of Texas. Her uncles are Mark and Brad Blackburn, of Orlando.

Community News


Ray Hensley

A Chickasaw author has recently released a suspense-filled book.

Ray Hensley, of Ardmore, Okla., has written "The C.R.A.C.K.," a science fiction thriller. The book was published by Tate Publishing Company of Mustang, Okla., and released in August.

"The C.R.A.C.K." stands for Creatures Real and Certain Killers. The setting for the book is space during the future when space has been settled. There are many different life forms and humans have spread throughout the galaxy.

Cargo ships support the many settlements, and the story ramps up when the ships come under attack by pirates. The pirates are a deadly bunch and regularly plunder the ship, dispatch the crew and kidnap the captain.

The story tells of the quest to catch, destroy and eliminate C.R.A.C.K. It is a story about caring for each other during times of hardship, and rising above oneself for the betterment of humanity.

"This book is a really good read and I fully expect you will enjoy the story," Mr. Hensley said.

"The C.R.A.C.K." can be ordered directly from Tate Publishing Company by going to the link: https://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?w=978-1-68118-619-1.

Ashley Creek

A Chickasaw woman has recently represented Chickasaw culture during a Native American harvest celebration in Virginia.

Ashley Creek prepared and manned a Chickasaw booth during The Gathering in Berryville, Virginia. The event was the last weekend in October and featured storytellers, dancers, vendors, artisans, authors and living history exhibitors.

Ms. Creek is a volunteer with the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum, a nonprofit organization in Winchester, Virginia. Ms. Creek was asked by a museum coordinator to prepare a family-friendly booth that would feature games, information and a community loom.

Ms. Creek contacted fellow Chickasaws to collect information and legends for storytelling. She also designed language activities including bingo and a vocabulary matching exercise.

"I was thrilled to find that so many people, old and young alike, were interested in a cultured so underrepresented, particularly in this area," Ms. Creek said.

The loom was a popular booth activity. Built of backyard branches and twine by museum staffer Dee Clingan, event attendees could try their hands at using the loom.

A number of tribes were represented at the Gathering.

"There were drums beating, people singing and chanting, folks dancing, storytelling," Ms. Creek said. "As a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, I was honored to represent my heritage at the event."

Congratulations

Phillip 'Greg' Hays

A Chickasaw man has recently been named to a significant post at a NYSE-listed company.

Phillip (Greg) Hays, of Davidson, N.C., has been named Vice President of Human Resources for Corporate Functions by Ingersoll Rand Corporation, an Irish global diversified industrial company.

Mr. Hays will lead the Corporate Human Resources team, providing human resources business partnership to the functional enterprise leadership team members and their organizations. He will oversee global labor relations for the company.

Ingersoll Rand makes power tools, golf cars, utility vehicles, time management systems, refrigeration units and air conditioning systems. The company's brands include Trane, Thermo King and Club Car.

Mr. Hays has previously held human resources positions with Gates Corp., Avery Dennison and Kraft Foods.

He spent most of his school years in Moore, Okla., then graduated from DeQueen (AR) High School where he was both a football and track all-stater. He attended East Central (OK) University for a semester, during which he also worked at the Chickasaw Nation.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business from Southern Oregon University and his Master's of Business Administration from the University of Denver.

He is the son of Phil and Trisha Hays, of Hot Springs, Ark. He is the grandson of the late Nicholas Bit and Lillian Blackwood Fowler, of Pauls Valley, Okla., and Harve and Mary Helen Hays, of Wynnewood, Okla.

Mr. Phillips and his wife, Kara, have three children, Alex, Caitlin and Lily.

Brittany and husband, Michael Venable, and dog, Venny

Brittany Ann Caldwell Venable a board certified Nurse Practitioner, has recently accepted a position with CVS Minute Clinic.

Mrs. Venable began her new job on October 16 and will work at several locations in the St. Louis metro area.

Mrs. Venable received her master's degree in nursing from Maryville University in St. Louis. She participated in Maryville graduation ceremonies in May.

She completed her coursework requirements in August to make her degree official and immediately passed her board certification exam on her first testing.

She will retain dual employment at CVS Minute Clinic and Mercy Hospital. She currently works in Mercy's post-operative unit.

She began her career at Mercy in the ICU medical and ICU surgical units in 2009.

Mrs. Venable earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Missouri in 2008.

She is the daughter of Patricia Holland Caldwell, of St. Louis.

Darren Bralley

A Chickasaw military man is fulfilling an important role in the operations of a U.S. Navy aircraft team.

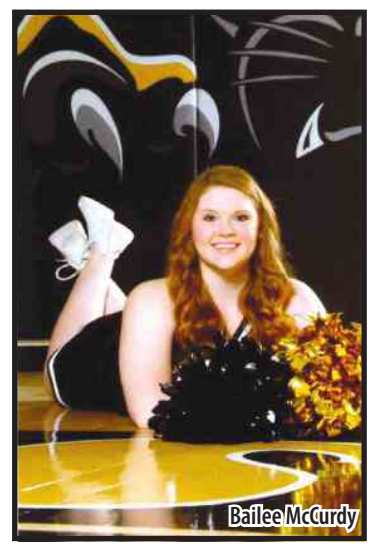
U.S. Navy Airman Darren Bralley serves as an aviation machinist's mate at U.S. Naval Air Station Lemoore in California. Airman Bralley is part of the Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron 122, the "Flying Eagles."

Airman Bralley works with the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, the Navy's most versatile and lethal strike fighter aircraft. He is responsible for ensuring proper operations of the engine and fuel systems on the aircraft.

He is a 2011 graduate of Madill (OK) High School. He is the son of William and June Standridge.

Emily Blagg Ethan Blagg

Emily Blagg, a Chickasaw senior at Crossings Christian School of Oklahoma City, and a member of Venture Crew 21, recently became the first in her Council and the first female in Oklahoma to achieve their highest honor, the Summit Award. Venturing is a program of the Boy Scouts of America for men and women ages 14-20. Emily and her brother, Ethan, of whom has also achieved this honor, are the children of Matt and Karrie Blagg, of Edmond, Okla., and the grandchildren of Buddy and Pamela Strickland, and the late Becky Strickland, of Pauls Valley, Okla., and Don and Sharon Blagg of Weatherford, Okla.


Bailee McCurdy

Bailee McCurdy, a junior at Latta High School in Ada, Okla. is one of more than 650 high school cheerleaders and dancers from across the U.S. who will be representing Varsity Spirit in the world famous London New Year's Day Parade.

The individuals invited to perform in the parade qualified for the trip after being selected as an AII-American at one of the summer camps hosted by the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA).

All-Americans are selected to tryout based on superior cheerleading, dancing and leadership skills at camps across the country. Only the top 12% of the more than 325,000 cheerleaders who attend the 5,000 varsity summer camp sessions earn the chance to march in the holiday spectacular.

Bailee will be among the parade performers from all over the world. Cheerleaders, marching bands, acrobats and more will make up the 8,500 performers representing 20 countries worldwide in the 2016 parade. Established as one of London's biggest events, the parade is seen by nearly 600 million people around the world.

Ethan Eck

Chickasaw citizen Ethan Eck, harvested his first nice buck (nine points) at Kullihoma this October during youth gun season.

Makyna Madison

Makyna Madison, a Chickasaw seventh-grader from Blanchard, Okla., has recently participated in the Princess of America national pageant. The event was Nov. 23-28 in Branson, Missouri.

Makyna attends Blanchard Middle School, where she is a straight A student. She is an active member of her church youth group, and is involved in her school academic team, 4H, yearbook, basketball and track.

She will soon be inducted into the Blanchard chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Makyna participated in the tournament as Oklahoma Sweetheart 2015. Her platform was "Stand for the Silent," to raise awareness about bullying and its repercussions.

She is the daughter of Tony and ShaChrista Madison.

Graduation

Grace Walzel

Grace Walzel is scheduled to graduate this month from Dallas Baptist University. She is the daughter of Leslie Walzel.

Grace is shown proudly wearing her Chickasaw Nation stole.

CLARIFICATION

In a November article about Morgan Ehn, a Chickasaw and a retired U.S. Marine Corps officer, a paragraph was omitted. The paragraph appears below.

"Serving in the Marine Corps has been an important part of Mr. Ehn's life. He wanted to carry on the tradition of making a difference in lives of people he will never know. During the invasion of Iraq, he was a member of the first American unit to be fired upon in a rocket attack, and part of a team that discovered mass graves and helped recover bodies. He expected to see most of the things he experienced, such as wounded and deceased combatants, but unexpected incidents included watching children playing in combat zones and jumping on half-buried, unexploded artillery shells. The toll of those and other experiences were fully revealed within two years of retiring from active duty."

September and October 2015 Chickasaw Nation Outstanding Achievement Award Recipients

Serina Tiger

Serina Tiger, 8, the daughter of Rachel Tiger, is a recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.

Serina Tiger

Serina is in the second grade at Latta Elementary in Ada, Okla. She was nominated by her second grade teacher, Kristi Smith.

"Serina has been in my classroom for only a short time, but I have seen her good behavior and hard work on daily basis," Ms. Smith said.

Serina's hobbies includes beading, designing and sewing clothes for dolls and quilting doll blankets. She also enjoys tap dancing.

Serina's future goal is to become a clothing designer.

Autumn Perry

Autumn Perry, 15, the daughter of Shawn and Frank Perry, is a recipient of the 2015 Chickasaw Nation Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics.

Autumn is a junior at Horizon Christian Academy in San Diego, Calif. She was nominated by her academic counselor, Lisa Johnson.

"Autumn is a diligent, dedicated student and is an asset to our school," Ms. Johnson said. "Through a strong collegiate program, she will be able to develop her intellectual abilities. I am confident that Autumn Perry will be successful at any university she attends."

Autumn Perry

Autumn enjoys spending time with her family and friends and playing softball. She also enjoys volunteering at different community events and food banks. She recently volunteered for an organization called Stand Up For Kids, helping gather shoes for runaway teens.

Autumn's future goals include attending a four-year college to study forensic science and to be on the college softball team.

Ariana Munoz

Ariana Munoz, 9, the daughter of Janice and Derek Munoz, is a recipient of the 2015 Chickasaw Nation Outstanding Citizenship Award.

Ariana is in the third grade at Latta Elementary in Ada, Okla. She was nominated by her third-grade teacher, Bobbie Priest.

"Ariana is always willing to do what is takes to get her work done," Ms. Priest said. "She is a great representative of the Chickasaw Nation."

Ariana's hobbies includes playing tag, riding her bicycle outside, playing softball and basketball.

Ariana Munoz

Ariana's future goal is to be a teacher.

Tyler Rodgers

Tyler Rodgers, 19, the son of Preston and Deborah Rodgers, is a recipient of the 2015 Chickasaw Nation Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.

Tyler Rodgers

Tyler is a senior at Latta High School in Ada, Okla. He was nominated by his teacher, Jessica Tilley.

"Tyler's knowledge of history is highly impressive," Ms. Tilley said. "He continues to make excellent grades and is always willing to help out his classmates. He has a great attitude and exemplifies effort in all of his accomplishments."

Tyler enjoys playing guitar, gaming, writing, and listening to music.

Tyler's future goals include going to college and joining the Marine Corps.

Abigail Rose

Abigail Rose, 15, the daughter of Mark and Cher Rose, is a recipient of the 2015 Chickasaw Nation Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.

Abigail Rose

Abigail is a sophomore at Westmoore High School in Oklahoma City. She was nominated by her Latin Teacher, Katy Abernanthy.

"Abigail has a sweet and quiet spirit that has shown major academic growth in her studies," Ms. Abernathy said. "She takes many AP classes, is active in various academic clubs and sports, which show her dedication to school and academic well-being."

Abigail hobbies include golfing, reading and tumbling. She is involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Jags for Christ.

Her future plans include attending the University of Oklahoma to become an orthodontist.

Avery Rose

Avery Rose, 11, the daughter of Mark and Cher Rose, is a recipient of the 2015 Chickasaw Nation Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.

Avery Rose

Avery is in the sixth grade at Red Oak Elementary in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was nominated by her sixth-grade teacher at Moore Public Schools, Jennifer Davidson.

"Avery has an outgoing attitude, extremely organized and completes her tasks on time," Ms. Davidson said. "She has also been part of the school's student council for the last two years."

Avery's hobbies include ice skating and spending time with friends. Her favorite subject is reading.

Avery's future plans include going to Harvard Law School.

Farm to School connects local farmers, schools

It's well known that kids need good nutrition to nourish their bodies and minds. Chickasaw Nation Nutritions Services has recently kicked off the Farm to School program that delivers fresh, nutritious and delicious foods direct from farms to schools.

Earlier this semester, Chickasaw Nation Head Start students Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services partnered with Chickasaw Nation Head Start to begin implementing the Farm to Pre-School program in all four Chickasaw Nation Head Start facilities. Students took part in fun, interactive lessons, and each site's food service staff participated in culinary trainings lead by staff from Chickasaw Nation Medical Center's Okchamali's Café.

Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services actively seeks new opportunities that further grow the programs and services provided to Chickasaw citizens, as well as to other individuals living within the Chickasaw Nation boundaries that meet program qualifications.

The Farm to School program is one example of how nutrition services has partnered with the USDA in a new program to connect farmers with area schools to provide locally grown fruits and vegetables. Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools.

During the 2013–2014 school year, nutrition services worked with three local schools to connect them with area farmers.

According to AnDina Wiley, nutrition services' Farm to School Coordinator, the success of the program is mainly attributed to education. Quarterly meetings take place to train participating school districts. Menu planning, procurement and forecasting future purchases are just a few of the items discussed with the school systems' food service directors.

"It has been exciting to pair school systems with farmers. It is a partnership where everyone involved wins," Ms. Wiley said. "The schools receive a dependable supply of fresh produce for their cafeterias, farmers benefit by receiving a reliable source of new revenue to support their farming business, and the children are able to eat fresh, colorful fruits and vegetables."

Culinary experts from the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center's Okchamali Café contribute peer training to school cafeteria staff by demonstrating techniques and providing guidance for preparing fresh produce. Through these trainings, the schools' staff members are encouraged to incorporate more fresh fruits and vegetables into their recipes and menu.

"Some of the schools' staff members who prepared the meals were a little resistant to change in the beginning. Many had done things the same way for years and were worried preparing fresh produce would take too much time," Ms. Wiley said. "After being introduced to new techniques and recipes, they saw that incorporating fresh produce was achievable."

Farmers also receive training to ensure the availability of produce for schools. Trainings conducted for participating farmers include topics such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and learning to extend their growing season through the use of hoop-houses. Most importantly, food sanitation and safety practices are made clear to producers of fresh food on such a large scale.

Currently, farmers have two options available to sell fresh foods to local schools. The first option involves a direct relationship with the school district. This method is preferred because the farmer and the school receive direct feedback from one another. With the second option, the farmer sells his or her produce to a distributor or food service vendor. Then the school orders the fresh produce from the distributor or food service vendor.

Both procurement options allow schools to incorporate fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables into school meals.

"Buying locally means schools know where their food is coming from and that it is fresh, healthy and safe," Ms. Wiley said. "Some produce requires special equipment for cleaning, packaging and handling. In those instances, farmers contact vendors and distributors who have the proper equipment for safe handling and storage of perishable items. The local produce is then sold to the schools."

The Farm to School program has a classroom education component, as well, for children. Healthy eating habits are formed with repeated exposure to nutritious foods. The younger the child is when exposed to fresh produce, the more likely the child is adopt positive eating habits for a lifetime. The interactive lessons teach students the benefits of eating healthy, as well as the process of how their food is grown.

"Younger children are more impressionable," Ms. Wiley said. "It's still hard work, but we feel there is a greater likelihood for success by winning over younger children into making healthier choices about what they eat."

According to Ms. Wiley, the instruction and training the school systems received will be offered to the Chickasaw Nation Head Start and Child Development sites and will be called Farm to Pre-school. Nutrition Services will partner with Head Start and Child Development staff to work on menu planning and making adjustments to incorporate realistic goals for including fresh, local produce.

"Pairing together farmers and the school systems of Milburn, Fox and Kingston was a great experience," Ms. Wiley said. "We realized we wanted to have the same partnerships with farmers and expand educational opportunities at Chickasaw Head Start and Child Development locations."

Nutrition Services plans to expand the Farm to Pre-School education to include cultural components, such as early farming techniques and crops. Classroom activities will have a language component to introduce children to the Chickasaw language, and plans are being developed for raised-bed gardens to expose children to growing their own food.

For more information about the Farm to School program, or to learn how school districts and farmers can become involved, contact AnDina Wiley at 580-272-8384 or email at andina.wiley@chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee · November 9, 2015
Present: Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Linda Briggs, Connie Barker, Scott Wood, Nancy Elliott, Dean McManus

Legislative Committee · November 9, 2015
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Connie Barker, Tim Colbert, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods
Absent: Mary Jo Green

Human Resources Committee · November 9, 2015
Present: Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Connie Barker
Absent: Mary Jo Green

Education Committee · November 9, 2015
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond

Health Care Committee · November 9, 2015
Present: Connie Barker, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Scott Wood
Absent: Steve Woods, Mary Jo Green

Finance Committee · November 16, 2015
Present: Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Connie Barker
Absent: Toby Perkins

Committee of the Whole · November 16, 2015
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Connie Barker, Tim Colbert, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
Absent: Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
Legislative Session
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
November 20, 2015

AGENDA ITEM #1 **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
AGENDA ITEM #2 **ROLL CALL**
AGENDA ITEM #3 **INVOCATION**
AGENDA ITEM #4 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –** October 16, 2015
AGENDA ITEM #5 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
AGENDA ITEM #6 **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus

GR33-004 **Gubernatorial Reappointment, Chickasaw Nation Election Commission Rose Jefferson**

GR33-005 **Gubernatorial Reappointment, Chickasaw Nation Election Commission Beryl Sears**

AGENDA ITEM #7 **NEW BUSINESS (**Comments from Citizens)
AGENDA ITEM #8 **ADJOURNMENT**

NOVEMBER 2015 RESOLUTIONS

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-004
Gubernatorial Reappointment - Chickasaw Nation Election Commission
Rose Jefferson

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rose Jefferson has previously served as the Pontotoc District representative on the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Anoatubby has reappointed Ms. Rose Jefferson, a citizen of the Pontotoc District of the Chickasaw Nation to serve on the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby confirms Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Ms. Rose Jefferson to the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission as the Pontotoc District representative, to fill a term of office ending on December 31, 2018.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on November 20, 2015, by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Ms. Rose Jefferson to the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission ending on December 31, 2018.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-005
Gubernatorial Reappointment - Chickasaw Nation Election Commission
Beryl Sears

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beryl Sears has previously served as the Panola District representative on the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission, and

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Anoatubby has reappointed Mr. Beryl Sears, a citizen of the Panola District of the Chickasaw Nation to serve on the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby confirms Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Beryl Sears to the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission as the Panola District representative, to fill a term of office ending on December 31, 2018.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on November 20, 2015, by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Beryl Sears to the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission ending on December 31, 2018.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

OCTOBER 2015 LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
October 16, 2015

AGENDA ITEM #1 **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairperson Connie Barker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Connie Barker

Members absent: Toby Perkins, Mary Jo Green, Steve Woods

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary; Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms; Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

Guests present: Judy Foster, Dana Lance, Wilma Watson, Mike Watson

AGENDA ITEM #3 **INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Mr. Woerz.

AGENDA ITEM #4 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairperson Barker opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson for 2016.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to elect Connie Barker. There were no other nominations.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. McManus to elect Ms. Barker by acclamation.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Scott Wood - 9 yes votes

The motion to elect Ms. Barker as Chairperson by acclamation carried unanimously.

Chairperson Barker opened the floor for Secretary for 2016.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to elect Ms. Nancy Elliott. There were no other nominations.

The motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. McManus to elect Ms. Elliott by acclamation .

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 10 yes votes

The motion to elect Ms. Elliott as Secretary by acclamation carried unanimously.

Chairperson Barker nominated Doretta Sellers as Recording Secretary and Harold Stick as Sergeant-At-Arms for 2016.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Briggs to accept Ms. Sellers as Recording Secretary and Mr. Stick as Sergeant-At-Arms by acclamation.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 10 yes votes

The motion to accept Ms. Sellers as Recording Secretary and Mr. Stick as Sergeant-At-Arms by acclamation carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5 **READING OF MINUTES - September 18, 2015**

A motion was made by Ms. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Case to approve the September 18, 2015 minutes.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 10 yes votes

The motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2015 carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #6 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #7 **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Linda Briggs

GR33-001 **Authority for Acceptance of Real Property in Carter County**

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Hammond to approve GR33-001.

Members voting yes: Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 9 yes votes

Member abstaining: Beth Alexander - 1 abstention

The motion to approve GR33-001 carried.

Ms. Briggs concluded her report.

AGENDA ITEM #8 **NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)**

There was no new business to discuss.

Mr. Mike Watson commented on the timberlands settlement. After making disparaging remarks about the Legislature, Chairperson Barker warned if he attempted to make additional critical remarks about the Legislature, in Session, he would not be allowed to speak before them.

Ms. Judy Foster, music teacher at Mansville Elementary School, stated a group of students attended the Chickasaw Festival. She delivered thank you cards from the students and asked that they be distributed to the Legislators and Governor Anoatubby.

Chairperson Barker thanked the Legislature for their support over the past year and adjourned the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #9 **ADJOURNMENT**

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Elliott, Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Prepared by:

Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Former Indian Health Facility reworked to house several tribal programs

Carl Albert Service Center dedicated in Ada

Gov. Bill Anoatubby, center, is joined by tribal officials to dedicate the Chickasaw Nation Carl Albert Service Center Nov. 17 in Ada, Okla. The building opened in 1980 as the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. Now the completely renovated building will help Chickasaw citizens and employees with education, training and career development. Joining Gov. Anoatubby are, from left, Chickasaw Nation Secretary of Family Services Jay Keel; tribal Ambassador At-Large Neal McCaleb; tribal legislators Connie Barker and Shanna Tate-Hammond; Manhattan Construction representative Xavier Neira; tribal Secretary of Interior Services Jalinda Kelley; tribal legislators Nancy Elliott and Dean McManus; Gov. Anoatubby; Dr. Jan Summer; legislator Toby Perkins; CASC facility planning manager Nick Drannon; Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court Justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon; legislator Katie Case; and Supreme Court Justice Linda English-Weeks.

ADA, Okla. – Governor Bill Anoatubby said the opening of the Carl Albert Service Center launches a new era in a long tradition of service at the renovated building's ribbon cutting ceremony in Ada Nov. 17.

Gov. Anoatubby was joined by several tribal, community and state officials to dedicate the Carl Albert Service Center, 1001 N. Country Club Road.

"A new chapter begins today with the rebirth of this facility as the Carl Albert Service Center," Gov. Anoatubby said. "The words 'Service Center' declare the building's purpose – to serve Chickasaw Nation citizens, our employees and the community. It stands as a symbol for our continued commitment to enhance the overall quality of life of Chickasaw people and to make a positive impact on the community."

The 127,260 square-foot building opened in 1980 as the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility and served thousands of Chickasaw and Native American patients until the opening of the Chickasaw Medical Center in 2010.

"Rarely is a place with so much history of service given a new lease," Gov. Anoatubby said. "And this building made a lot of history over the years in its time as the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility."

The completely renovated building will help Chickasaw Nation citizens and employees with education, training and career development.

The building will house employment programs such as School to Work, which helps Chickasaw citizens gain on-the-job training while pursuing higher education, and the Career Development Initiative, which helps Chickasaw citizens develop résumés and interview skills.

It will also provide a location for employee training and leadership development courses as well as new-hire orientation.

The facility has 191 offices, 10 state-of-the-art conference rooms, two computer labs, a large assembly hall that can be partitioned into two orientation rooms and a large training area. A new Bedré Café is also located in the building.

Each orientation room has a large projector screen and two television displays for Telepresence connection with Winstar World Resort and Riverwind Casino.

The Chickasaw Nation WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program will continue operating out of the facility. The WIC program provides pregnant or postpartum women, infants and children in the community with nutritious foods.

Other Chickasaw Nation departments including Benefits, Legal, Organizational Planning and Support, Compensation, Self Determination, Administrative Services and Interior Services will be housed at the new facility.

The building will house about 225 employees and host approximately 300 visitors per day.

Twenty-seven new employment positions have been added with the opening of the new building.

Carl Albert Indian Health Facility History

In 1973, the U.S. Indian Health Service announced a new Indian hospital would be built in central Oklahoma.

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Carl Albert (D-Okla.) worked to get Congress to approve a $4.5 million appropriation bill to begin construction.

The Ada Trust Authority donated 15 acres of land for construction and the firm of Neal McCaleb, a Chickasaw and Oklahoma legislator, was awarded the architectural contract.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted January 1978 and the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility opened June 14, 1980.

By 2009, the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility served an average of more than 300,000 patients per year.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Danny Waldron Hill

Chickasaw photographer to the stars

Pictures of movie stars line the walls of an Oklahoma assisted living center. They are there because of the Chickasaw photographer who now lives there.

Danny Waldron Hill became a "photographer to the stars" simply, at first, because he kept his camera with him and he had a "nose" for where he would find celebrities.

Danny Hill

Mr. Hill is a sixth-generation Oklahoman and Chickasaw citizen. He grew up in southwest Oklahoma City and graduated from U.S. Grant High School in 1956.

After his discharge from the U.S. Air Force in 1960, he worked for the federal government in downtown Dallas.

"There always seemed to be a celebrity or two in the downtown area having lunch or performing at a concert," Mr. Hill said. "It was worth keeping my camera near me."

Often, he would snap a photo, develop it, frame the print and wait patiently for the photo to be signed by the celebrity. In some cases, stars warmed to Mr. Hill and allowed him lots of access. He was invited backstage for photos by Debbie Reynolds, and Johnny Cash once actually invited him on stage for photos, which he later signed.

Mr. Hill's large collection includes decades of stars such as Elizabeth Taylor, Gregory Peck, Kirk Douglas, Mitzi Gaynor, Sophia Loren, Cecily Tyson and Richard Roundtree.

He captured lots of famous singers and musicians including Mel Torme, Pat Boone, Roy Rogers, Hank Thompson and Charlie Pride.

And there are many others, like artist Andy Warhol, actress Sally Struthers and Broadway star Carol Channing. He caught images of famous athletes including Hank Aaron and Dorothy Hamill. Photos of other performers include Art Linkletter, Liberace, Herb Alpert and Clayton Moore (The Lone Ranger).

He also captured a number of early "Batman" tv series actors including Adam West (Batman), Cesar Romero (the Joker) and Eartha Kitt (Catwoman).

Always active on the powwow circuit, Mr. Hill's five decades of Native dancers have been displayed in many venues.

His expertise allowed him the opportunity to share his love and passion for the camera by speaking at camera and photography conferences and classes, most often in the Dallas area.

He was also a avid photographer of animals, flowers, trains and family. "Uncle Dan's slide show" was always a hit at family reunions!

Danny Hill circa 1970s

Mr. Hill returned to Oklahoma when his wife Mary Ella died in 2010. He was one of the first residents of Fountainbrook Assisted Living Center in Midwest City, Okla., and has often regretted he could not share this late life experience with his wife.

Master's program great for working Chickasaws

DURANT, Okla. – Southeastern Oklahoma State University's Master of Science in Native American Leadership program is perfect for working students.

Enrollment for the 2016 online course is at 85 and the director of the program expects 100 students to be enrolled when classes begin Jan. 3, 2016.

The Master of Science in Native American Leadership (MSNAL) explores traditional and modern concepts of Indian education leadership, tribal government leadership, tribal governments, decision-making and legislation, constitutional reform, planning, economic development, community development, nation rebuilding, tribal courts, and administration and planning.

"There is still time to enroll," director Chris Wesberry said. "Yesterday, I enrolled a member of a Montana tribe and I am visiting with a tribe in Wisconsin that is considering enrolling several members for the January term."

The degree program requires 32 hours of study. It is entirely online so any tribal citizen or non-tribal student working with Native Americans may enroll.

"Potentially, a degree could be completed in three semesters with spring, summer and fall enrollment," Mr. Wesberry said.

Admission requirements include a baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited institution. An overall grade point average of 2.75 over the last 60 hours of study is required and there are no prerequisite courses required.

The program begins with a two-week introductory course preparing students for program expectations.

Applications for spring 2016 are being accepted. Enrollment started in October but is on-going until classes begin in January.

To apply online visit http://www.se.edu.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Native people to earn a master's degree, especially if they are currently working," Mr. Wesberry said.

Free landscape, fruit trees available

DURANT, Okla. - The Bryan Conservation District is currently taking orders for a variety of fruit and landscape trees. Orders will be accepted through February 19, 2016.

For details, stop by the office at 200 Gerlach Dr., Durant, or call Debbie at (580) 924-5464 or visit www.bryanconservationdistrict.org .

Career Tech grants open to Chickasaws

The Chickasaw Nation Career Technology Program offers grants to Chickasaw students interested in attending a state or nationally accredited training facility.

The grants provide funding for tuition fees, supplies, books and other training-related expenses.

Students interested in participating in the program must be Chickasaw citizens attending a state- or nationally-accredited facility.

Students must provide completed Career Technology program grant applications (form 04572), invoice or bill statements with itemized program costs from the training facility and high school transcripts, high school equivalency or college transcripts.

For more information, contact Education Services at (580) 421-7711.

Studio open to young Chickasaw artists

The Chickasaw Young Artists Studio helps aspiring and emerging Chickasaw artists in grades 7-12 by providing supervised studio time.

Through the studio, students can book one of 10 sessions allotted per week. During the sessions, the young artists will work on artwork with an assigned art instructor, build portfolios, and prepare art for contest submissions. Students must bring their own supplies and only scheduled artists may be in the studio.

The studio is provided by Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities.

For more information or an application, please contact Cara Criswell at (580) 272-5520.

Irene Digby

Chickasaw elder thrives on sharing tribe's culture

Irene Pettigrew Digby is living a full life as a Chickasaw elder.

Mrs. Digby celebrates her 94th birthday this month. Her Chickasaw heritage, tradition and culture are woven throughout her life, and the life of her family and community. She seeks to cultivate her native culture so it will live on through the younger generations.

From teaching time-honored traditional recipes, to daily practice of the Chickasaw language, the petite, soft-spoken family matriarch strives to keep Chickasaw culture and heritage flourishing by sharing her knowledge with all generations.

Mrs. Digby is a lifelong Murray County, Oklahoma woman who grew up speaking Chickasaw. Sharing her native language wasn't foremost on her mind as she was busy raising her four children.

But as her golden years emerged and along came grandchildren, sharing her native culture has been a top priority.

Irene Digby

THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

Teaching Oklahoma school children about Thanksgiving traditions, Chickasaw stories and sharing traditional hymns is now a seasonal rite for Mrs. Digby and her youngest daughter, Rhonda (Digby) McCann.

For the past 22 years, Mrs. Digby and Mrs. McCann don traditional Chickasaw dresses, specially made by older daughter Beverly, and visit select Oklahoma schools to share Chickasaw culture.

During the November presentations Mrs. McCann tells "The Rattlesnake Story," Mrs. Digby recites "The Lord's Prayer" in the Chickasaw language, shares the traditional Thanksgiving story and sings Chickasaw hymns.

They bring a few of the bags of unblemished, uncooked hominy which Mrs. Digby spends hours carefully sorting as a visual aide for presentations on cooking pashofa.

Mrs. Digby and Mrs. McCann have visited Davis Schools, Head Starts and other Oklahoma schools since the 1990s.

TRADITIONS PASSED ON

Traditions she is sharing - from cooking the traditional Chickasaw staple Pashofa, to designating Chickasaw names for her family and friends - are things she learned while growing up.

A full-blood Chickasaw born in 1921 in the rural Murray County community of Fairview to Joe and Serena Pettigrew, Mrs. Digby and her three sisters grew up in what she calls the "White House."

Chickasaw was the primary language spoken in her home.

"(My parents) spoke the Chickasaw language growing up. Mother could only speak broken English," she recalled.

Even now, Mrs. Digby is building on her first language by attending weekly Chickasaw language classes, sometimes serving as a substitute teacher.

Although she didn't teach the language to her four children as they were growing up, generations are immersed in it now. She has helped in the naming of her grandchildren by giving them Chickasaw names.

"I gave all my kids (and grandkids) Indian names," she said.

All the grandkids' names are part of their legal names, such as Enchel (Angel) and Soboshi (Colt) ensuring the language will thrive.

"When we get together, I have all the kids sit around and I make them all say their Chickasaw name – and they know it," she said.

Bestowing names on others is now a community tradition.

"Other people want me to give them a Chickasaw name and I do," she chuckled.

If she had one wish, she said, it would be for younger Chickasaw students to have more opportunities to learn the language.

Mrs. Digby's children have learned many of the cultural traditions, such as making possum grape jelly as well as cooking pashofa and the art of beading, and are now carrying on the legacy.

LEARNING A LEGACY

Mrs. Digby learned to make pashofa as a young girl by watching her mother make it at home and at gatherings at church.

"We would always have pashofa at certain times," she said. "We made it for meetings at the Sandy Baptist Church. And every three months or on holidays we always made pashofa. It was one of our main dishes. We cooked it outside in a black pot. We had to stir and stir and stir so it wouldn't scorch when we were making it."

A black pashofa pot now sits in a place of honor on the landscape of her white frame Davis residence.

On the interior, Mrs. Digby's cozy home of more than five decades is also decorated in homage to her Chickasaw heritage.

The curio cabinet displays beaded wares and other cultural items, some her own creation and others which were gifted to her.

A Chickasaw blanket is draped across the sofa. A photo from her induction into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame sits prominently in the living room, and hominy for pashofa can be found in a plastic bag in the refrigerator crisper. All of these features reflect the life of the honored elder who turns 94 Nov. 12.

Mrs. Digby and her late husband Dick "B.F." Digby, have four children: Dean, Ronnie, Beverly and Rhonda; 10 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

HONORED ONE

Mrs. Digby was honored as a 2014 Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame inductee.

"Irene Digby finds strength in her heritage and in sharing it with those around her," Gov. Anoatubby said during the ceremony. "She is a strong defender of our language, and continues to be both a student and a teacher. For decades, Mrs. Digby has nurtured the very root of what makes Chickasaw people so strong - and that is our families. She fully represents the honor and wisdom we celebrate in our revered elders."

She was recently among 50 Native American elders honored by the American Association of Retired People (AARP) for contributions to their tribes, states and nation at the 7th Annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors. Mrs. Digby has been featured in three books published by the Chickasaw Press, Mike Larsen's acclaimed painting series "Elders of the Chickasaw Nation," "Chickasaw Renaissance," and the documentary "Chickasaw Removal."

Also in 2015 Gov. Anoatubby dedicated the auditorium at the Davis High School Auditorium in Mrs. Digby's honor. It is known as the "Nashoba Aaittafama" (Gathering Place for Wolves).

A plaque recognizing Mrs. Digby, a 1942 Davis High graduate, is placed in the auditorium's entrance.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Edith Platt

OKC-area citizen lives independently thanks to tribal programs

There are few "sure things" in life, but one that can be counted on is professional ball games playing on television in Edith Platt's living room. Described by friends as "Grand Central Station," Platt's house has a front door that's always open, and everyone is welcome to come in to root for their favorite teams.

While the open door policy of her home leads to a lot of traffic on her quite neighborhood street in downtown Moore, Oklahoma, Platt's neighbors wouldn't have it any other way. At 93, Platt is one of the most active people on the block. When most her age are thinking about retirement communities, she plans the next outing with her friends or improvement projects to her home.

"It is wonderful to still be living in my own home," Platt said. "I just wouldn't take anything for my little house. It is my home. It's not fancy, but its home."

According to Platt, her continued independence would not be possible without the help of friends and the Chickasaw Nation. Since moving into her home nearly 15 years ago, she has participated in many programs designed for citizens living outside the Chickasaw Nation administered by the Department of Community Services.

"I feel so blessed being Chickasaw. The tribe has helped me with repairs around my house," Platt said. "My house is one of the oldest in Moore. Over the years, it has needed work to make it a home, something my tribe was able to help me with."

Renovations on Platt's house have included the addition of a handicap-accessible bathroom, siding on her home, replacement of subflooring in her utility room, replacement of her front porch and repairs to her roof, among other projects.

Justin Padden, owner of J & D Construction and Remodeling and Platt's contractor, explained most of the work done to the house is routine maintenance.

Edith Platt

"Almost all the work done to the house has been general upkeep. We recently fixed a leaky roof and sagging floor in the utility room," Padden said. "Both could have become major problems and been dangerous down the road. Edith was excited to get have new linoleum laid and her ceilings painted."

According to Padden, working with the Chickasaw Nation is one of the easiest process he has encountered.

"We receive a check made out to me and Edith for the estimates I provided. Once Edith is satisfied with the work, she signed off on the check and I am able to deposit it," Padden said.

Moore is nationally known for its severe weather and the tornados that have struck the city. While not having experienced direct damage to her home from storms, over the years, Platt has made improvements that reflect her preparedness for weather events.

"In this part of the country, we have a lot of tornados and pretty bad winters. When the power went off, I was without heat," Ms. Platt said. "We put in the (gas) wall heater. Now I have heat when the power is down. I have had to use it several times when the power was off."

Platt also has a storm shelter provided by the tribe that was placed just feet from her back door. Sharing a yard with her neighbors and nephew, she says the shelter open to everyone.

"My shelter is large. Neighbors without shelters of their own come and sit with me while storms are at their worst," Ms. Platt said. "I have a hard time getting in and out of it (the shelter). They can help."

Community Health Representative presents solutions

Platt's life changed after a stroke left her partially paralyzed. According to Platt, her Chickasaw community health representative (CHR) has made it easier for her to live at home, and feel secure in doing so.

"Don, my CHR is wonderful! Anytime I need anything, he is here. He tells me about the things available to me," Platt said. "I told him I was a little antsy about getting in and out of my old tub. One day, he took a look at the bathroom and told me we were going to do something. We were going to put in a walk-in shower. He called me not too long after and told me we were going to get a handicap grant from the Chickasaws to make the bathroom safer."

According to Donald Burkhart, Platt's current CHR, the services available to Platt can be found by anyone within the programs and services book available to all Chickasaw citizens.

"I keep up with the services offered to us. I read the programs and services book," Burkhart said. "Also, being around it (citizens) you find out about what's offered. It's wonderful to be able to help others and complete the tasks needed by others."

With all the work done to Platt's home, the program that may make her feel most comfortable living alone is her medical alert necklace provided by the Chickasaw Nation. According to Platt, she feels comfortable day and night with it within reach.

"When I am at home alone, the (medical) necklace makes me feel very, very safe. It rings to the fire, ambulance and police. If I would ever need anything, it would just ring them right up."

Housing Grants Available to At-Large Citizens

Since purchasing her home, Platt has applied and used the Chickasaw home improvement and handicapped accessibility grants, as well as the one-time storm shelter program provided by the Chickasaw Nation.

According to Terry Davis, director of housing management services, housing grants are available to assist low income citizens with home improvement projects, while storm shelters are available to all tribal citizens across the United States.

"The grants provide citizens in need the ability to maintain their home and live in a safe environment no matter where they live," Davis said. "Income based, they are used for just about anything. Citizens have had contractors repair roofs, plumbing and made their house more accessible if (they are) disabled."

The home improvement grant provides up to $5,000 for home repair or improvement projects, while the handicapped accessibility grant is specifically designed to make homes safer and easier to live in for citizens with disabilities. Citizens can apply for both grants every two years.

"Ms. Platt recently received a handicapped accessibility grant to put in a walk-in shower," Davis said. "This is a common request from citizens, as well as wheel chair ramps, widening doors and lowering counter tops."

According to Davis, the storm shelter program is available to all citizens who own their homes. It does not have income restrictions. For citizens at large, grants up to $2,500 can be provided for the installation of storm shelters.

For more information on any of these grants, contact the Housing Administration office at 580-421-8800.

Judith Ann Lloyd

Chickasaw citizen and tribal employee, Judith Ann (May) Lloyd passed away on October 24, 2015. She was born on April 25, 1941 to Virgil and Sue (Wilson) May in Bakersfield, Calif. Judie was the granddaughter of Susan Ann (Shipp) Wilson, an original enrollee of the Chickasaw Nation.

Judie graduated from Choctaw High School and the Draughon Business College. She was highly skilled in accounting and was a successful real estate agent and business owner. She also had an adventuresome spirit. As a flight attendant, she flew all over the world, visiting many different countries and as an over-the-road truck driver, she drove big rigs coast to coast. Judie was employed at the Chickasaw Nation Department of Commerce.

Judie was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Beverly Sue (May) Adams; brother, Fred Lee May; and great-granddaughter, Alexis Brianna Wiser.

Survivors include her daughter, Sherrill Martin and husband, Dwight, of Ada; son, Gerald R. Smith and wife, Cheryl, of Summerville, S.C.; grandchildren, Khari Clark, of Jacksonville, Fla., Kevin Wiser, of Ada, and Colton, Madison and Cooper of Summerville, S.C.; great-grandchildren, Jacob, Joshua, Kayla and Arielle; brothers, Bob May and wife, Lawanda, of Oklahoma City, and Jerry May and wife, Linda, also of Oklahoma City.

A memorial service was at 11:00am, Friday, October 30, 2015 at Smith-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel. Pastor Harold Ware officiated. Fellowship followed the service at Ada First Baptist Church, 521 South Broadway Avenue.

Lawson Osta Schafer Morgan

Our beautiful baby boy, Lawson Osta (Pumpkin) Schafer Morgan, was born and joined his Creator on Saturday, October 24th, at 5:05 p.m. He was 9 inches long and weighed 7.7 ounces.

He was preceded in death by great grandparents Bill and Alta Clair Morgan, Don Schafer, and Bennie Ison.

He is survived by his parents, Destany and Larry Morgan; grandparents, Todd and Traci Schafer, Larry Sr. and Donna Morgan, and Teresa Miller Morgan; great grandparents, Phyllis and AJ Schafer, Liz and Larry Shaw, Ginny Schafer, and Thomas and Sandi Miller; aunts and uncles, Melissa and Andy Shelton, Monica and Dave Brown, Edward ("Tyler") Morgan, William ("Bill") Morgan, and Jonathan and Angela Sanders; and cousins, Heather and Ian Brown.

We are so blessed to have had him in our lives, if only for a short time. Rest in Peace, Lawson Osta (Pumpkin) Schafer Morgan.

Graveside services for Lawson Osta Schafer Morgan, infant son of Larry Douglas Morgan, Jr. and Destany Michelle Schafer-Morgan were 11:00 a.m. Saturday at the New Bethel Cemetery at Byng.

Charlie Noel Wells

Charlie Noel Wells passed peacefully on July 23, 2015.

Charlie Wells was born in Bromide, Okla. on May 21, 1925 as a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation. Shortly after birth, his family moved to Elgin, Okla. where Charlie spent his school years, until eagerly enlisting into the US Army in 1943. His formative years were spent hunting, fishing, playing sports and working labor intensive jobs to help support his depression-era family of 12.

A naturally gifted athlete, Charlie was 17 when he attracted the attention of St Louis Cardinals baseball scouts who pleaded with him to accept their deferment offer instead of becoming a soldier. Charlie adamantly declined and enlisted to fight for our freedoms.

Earning Sergeant stripes by the age of 19, Charlie was awarded a Bronze Star for rescuing a downed reconnaissance pilot 2 miles behind enemy lines. He suffered two bullet wounds fighting on Philippine soil shortly before war's end. These serious wounds denied him the chance of a baseball career.

After the war Charlie discovered the beauty of northwestern Oregon. It was there he met and married Sara Hensel. However, due to serious asthma issues, Charlie was compelled to move his wife and children to Fresno, Calif. in 1962.

Although Charlie found time to enjoy playing cards, dominoes, bowling, hunting and fishing with friends, he dedicated his life to supporting his family. Through his labor, intelligence and exceptional work ethic, Charlie became a highly respected automotive clutch builder. He was renowned throughout the USA for the quality of his product.

Charlie and Sara, who preceded him in death, raised five children, Michael, Jim (deceased), Don, Ron and Cheryl. The family grew to include grand children: Laura Wells; Melissa Lyons; Tracy Sample; Christopher (deceased), Brandon and Marcus Wells; Richard and Erin Miranda. Great-grandchildren include Sydney Lyons; Alexandria and Belle Bohlman; Charlie Sample; Jackson and Lauren Wells; Clarissa Ramirez. Sadly, Charlie will miss the birth of his most recent great-grand son, Mario Loya.

Charlie will be remembered as a charming, respected, fun-loving man who was quick to laugh and a generous, dedicated father who was beloved by his daughters-in-law, Cynthia(Medina)Wells; Mary(Lopez)Wells; and son-in-law, Ernie Miranda.

A funeral service was at Whitehurst, Sullivan, Burns & Blair Funeral Home on Friday, July 31, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. Interment followed at Fresno Memorial Gardens.

The Wells family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to Kendal Seymore. Ms Seymore went above and beyond her "care giver" role by becoming Charlie's trustworthy friend. Charlie was blessed to have her in his life during his final months.

Programs & Services Directory available

The **2016** Programs & Services Directory is now available for download at Chickasaw.net/servicedirectory. Hard copies will soon be mailed directly to all Chickasaw citizens.

The Programs & Services Directory contains information about all tribal programs and services. Inside the directory are program descriptions, contact information and office locations.

Waymon Merrwell Brown

Waymon Merrwell Brown, 85, was born in Elmore City, Okla. on August 10, 1930 to Thedus Merrwell and Grace Brown and he stepped into Heaven on October 20, 2015.

Mr. Brown was an active member of the Prime Time Bunch at Mobberly Baptist Church. He was retired from Sun Oil as a Corrosion Specialist and was a 32nd degree Mason. He also served in the Korean War in the Air Force and played on the Air Force baseball team.

In his younger days you would find this proud man of Chickasaw heritage fishing and hunting. As years went by, he loved traveling the country with Joyce and their friends in a motorhome, working in his woodshop creating treasured pieces, and restoring his 64-1/2 bright red convertible Mustang. He lived life to the fullest and could even be found ballroom dancing with his beloved wife, or barbequing a meal the entire family would enjoy. On a side note, his cooking skills never extended to chicken and tuna, but hot links were one of his all-time favorites. He also enjoyed being a part of the Mustang Patrol with the Shriners and sharing wisdom, wit, and a chuckle with all who knew him.

He loved his wife, Joyce Brown, his children, Alan Brown, of Longview, and Kim Hawkins, of Daingerfield, Texas. He was the proud granddad of Matthew, mark and Monica Brown and Jonathan Hawkins. He was blessed to have five great grandchildren, Christopher, Kayla, and Jocobe Brown, and Emley and Fiona Hawkins. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. His only sister and brother in law, Claudia and Dr. DI Coggin, share unforgettable memories of times together.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his grandson, David Hawkins.

In lieu of flowers, take a moment to value friendships, love your family, dance like no one is watching, learn the Pledge of Allegiance, be able to recite from memory the 23rd Psalm, travel the world, read a good book, tell your children you love them, and don't forget to give your life to Jesus.

A memorial service for Waymon was at The Crossing at Mobberly Baptist Church on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Shirley F. McAlister

Shirley F. McAlister, formerly of Ada, went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on October 24, 2015. She was laid to rest on October 28, 2015 at Missionary Ridge Cemetery in Bon Aqua, Tenn. She was a Chickasaw citizen and born in McAlester, Okla. on August 11, 1945 and raised in Arpelar and Ada, Okla.

She attended Latta schools. She worked at Brockway Glass for many years. She married Thomas McAlister in 1974. Due to his job, she traveled to many different places and lived in many different states. She eventually made Bon Aqua, Tenn. her home. She was a wonderful and caring person and an awesome and loving mother, always there for her family. Heaven called home a true angel. She will be missed by many and loved always. We will cherish the precious memories of our time with her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas McAlister in 2010; parents Fannie Gosnell Arpelar and Sidney Arpelar; two sisters, Laura Lindsey and Lillian Lindsey; and two brother-in-laws, Otis Lindsey and George Lindsey.

She is survived by three daughters and one son: Carmen Chancey and Renee Holden, of Bon Aqua, Tenn.; Michelle Lynch, of Ada, Okla.; and Michael Shields, of Bon Aqua, Tenn.; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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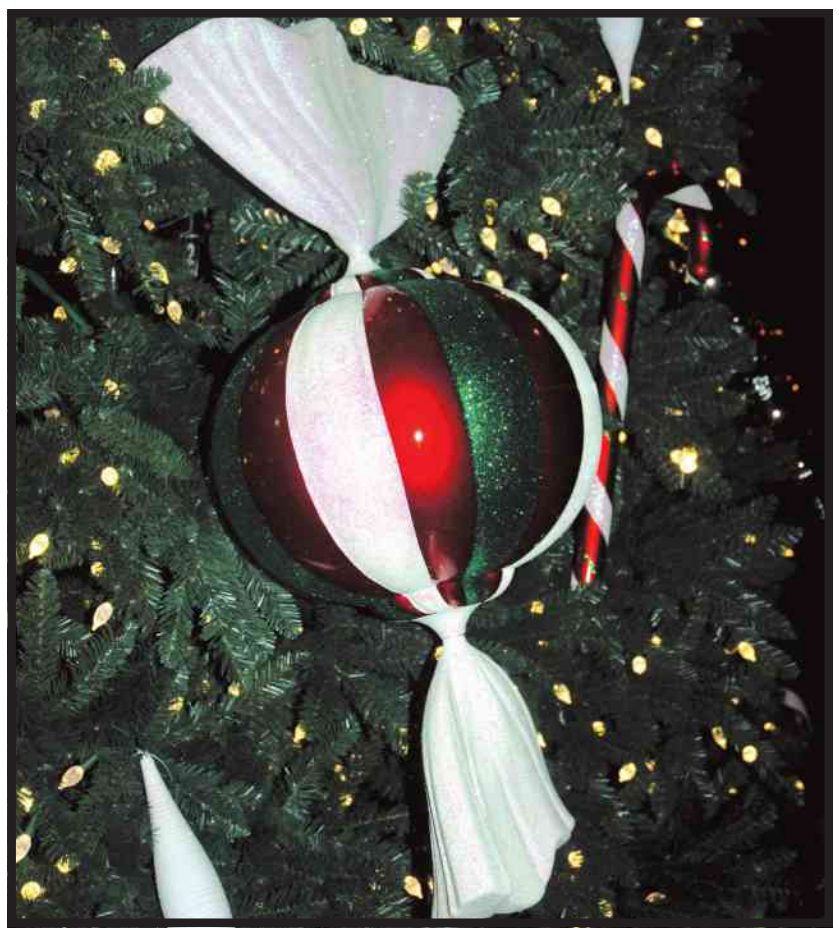
Wintersmith Park shining brightly

Ada's Trail of Lights Display

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby officially flipped the switch on Ada's Trail of Lights display at Wintersmith Park Nov. 23. Joining Gov. Anoatubby are, from left, Lisa Bratcher, public information officer for the city of Ada; Angie Dean, Ada attorney; Chris Anoatubby, under-secretary of tribal and commercial health for the Chickasaw Nation; Lisa John, secretary of culture and humanities for the Chickasaw Nation; Valorie Walters, executive officer for the Chickasaw Cultural Center, and Stacey Golightly, Pontotoc Technology Center small business coordinator. Decorative and festival holiday lights greet visitors on a one-mile path through the park. The highlight of the excursion is Ada's Christmas tree in front of Wintersmith Lodge.

Bridge of lights at Wintersmith Park in Ada, Okla.



Large candy ornmament that hangs on the Christmas tree sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation in Wintersmith Park in Ada, Okla.

SS Santa light display at Wintersmith Park in Ada, Okla.

Lit Christmas tree sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation at Wintersmith Park in Ada, Okla.